



FAS lineup announced for spring

By **JOE LEE**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Foreign Affairs Symposium released its speaker lineup for the 2007 Spring semester, with a series of events to showcase both well-known speakers and expert panels on specific issues.

Among those slated to speak during the upcoming symposiums include economist Jeffrey Sachs, author and editor Rajiv Chandrasekaran, and activist Mukhtar Mai.

With this year's theme entitled "Shifts in the Global Tides," FAS will address the "various movements and power shifts, both political and economic, that are changing the face of the world today," Natasha Kulkarni, senior and co-chair of FAS said. Kulkarni cited the rise of China as a global economic power, the development of nuclear weapons in North Korea and Iran, and the "resurfacing" of Marxist ideologies in South American nations such as Venezuela and Bolivia as some current examples of the theme.

The Symposium has broadened its scope this year, choosing to cover topics that it normally has not covered in the past, such as human trafficking.

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Univ. says personnel records misplaced

Administration claims risks of identity theft remain low

By **CINDY CHEN**
and **KATLYN TORGERSON**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The University disclosed that eight computer back-up tapes, containing sensitive personal information for 52,567 current and former Hopkins employees, were misplaced on Dec. 21, 2006.

A ninth tape, which contained personal information for Johns Hopkins Hospital patients, was also misplaced.

The University discovered that the tapes had not been returned from the contractor, Anacomp Company, Inc., and began an investigation that involved both the University and Hopkins Medicine Security on Jan. 18.

The University chose not to inform those whose records were misplaced until Feb. 7. It is believed that the box containing

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Chinese New Year festivities welcome Year of the Pig



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

At the JHU-CSSA Chinese New Year celebration for the 2007 Year of the Pig, a Zither ensemble from Washington, D.C. performs "Standing on the Top of Hills."

Applications for Regular Decision continue upward trend

By **PATRICIA PUGH**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Office of Admissions reports approximately 14,700 regular decision applications for the class of 2011 — nearly five percent greater than the class of 2010.

With applications up 65 percent in the last five years, Hopkins' applicant pool is increasing twice as fast in comparison to the average growth rate of the Ivy League and other top universities such as Georgetown and Duke. Minority students' applications have been

growing twice as fast as the growth of the overall applicant pool, similar to the growth in international applications. In order to avoid over-enrollment, the admissions rate is expected to fall.

"We're taking an institution that has been acknowledged for academic and research strengths and adding to that a sense of quality of student life," Director of Undergraduate Admissions John Latting reasoned.

With 30 people employed for recruitment, the Admissions office has taken several initiatives to focus more

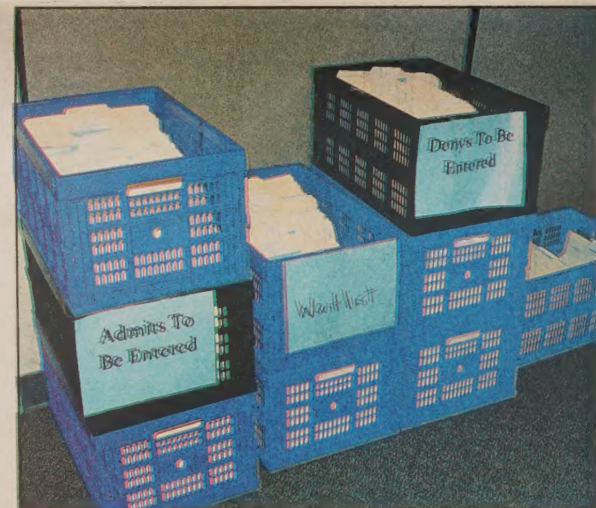
on the students at Hopkins rather than the mere facts and figures.

Seeking to humanize the reputation and round out some of Hopkins' hard edges, a new interactive admissions Web site which features blogs of students of various backgrounds and live chats have been established, among other things.

"If our students are saying it's great here and getting better, and I think most students are saying that, then that gets out and increases interest in coming here," Latting said.

For the first time, the Admissions staff began reading applications in December before the Jan. 1 deadline. Their goal was to increase its efficiency at identifying the top two-thirds of candidates in order to focus more attention on the applications that required more

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SARAH SABSHON/NEWS-LETTER

Regular Decision applications piled up this year, increasing five percent.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.IISD.CA
Economist Jeffrey Sachs will speak.

With series of events, campus celebrates Black History Month

By **YASIN AKBARI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Black Student Union kicked off Black History Month last Thursday, with opening ceremonies held at the Glass Pavilion, running under the theme, "Color In a Mosaic World: The Design of a People."

"The Black Student Union will provide a month that is educational, inspiring and enjoyable for the Hopkins and Baltimore communities alike. BSU hopes to encourage people to remember that black history is both American and world history, and does not function as a separate story, on a separate shelf, in a separate library," BSU president Christina Chapman said.

Chapman noted that besides highlighting landmarks and events in the past, the BSU hopes that its presentation of Black History Month "will remind students to remember that they are currently

writing tomorrow's history."

"Black History Month is about black talent, beauty [and] what it means to overcome. [The month] is there to teach one another and feel the essence of what it means to believe in this nation," BSU vice-president Brenton Pennicooke said in his opening remarks.

Following Pennicooke's introduction, the Johns Hopkins Gospel Choir performed the Black National Anthem. The group also performed after Katrina Bell McDonald introduced the guest speaker, Baltimore City Councilman Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, giving a rendition of "Ezekial Saw The Wheel."

Mitchell began his

speech by asking audience members if they knew their own personal histories. He went on to tell of his own ancestors. One such individual was an African

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COURTESY OF ASHLEY THOMAS
Black History Month commenced in the Glass Pavilion.

StuCo rejects energy group's reform proposal

By **MARIE CUSHING**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The student council has rejected a letter of resolution from the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT) to propose that Hopkins accept a policy that would decrease the University's negative effect on climate change, including a measure to make the entirety of Homewood carbon neutral by 2015.

The letter of resolution, addressed to President Brody, Dean Falk, Dean Jones and Dean Boswell, deemed Hopkins the optimal institution for establishing such a policy: "There are few other institutions in society that

have the influence, the critical mass and the diversity of skills needed to successfully make this transformation."

According to HEAT representatives, the organization is working to finish and revise the proposal, called the Responsible Energy Policy (REP) 2015, before presenting it again in its completed form to StuCo. It was unclear whether or not StuCo will participate in the revisions.

"Some of the StuCo members felt they couldn't express outright support for the Responsible Energy Policy without reviewing its final version,"

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Increasing numbers of grads going into finance

By **KALYAN KANAKAMEDALA**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

According to the Class of 2005 Post-Graduate Survey, conducted by the Career Center, 44 percent of respondents chose to enter full-time employment, whereas 42 percent of respondents had chosen to enter graduate or professional school.

Although Hopkins is known for its programs in the sciences, the most common field was the business and financial services industry, which attracted 28 percent of graduates who reported full-time employment as their primary activity. This figure was slightly higher than the 26 percent of students who had chosen to seek employment in the science and research sector.

However, David Verrier, director of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising, suggests that these numbers may not be as indicative as perceived.

"Regarding career, it has

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• The men's basketball team wins in double overtime against Haverford 72-68, giving them a conference record of 13-1, **A12**.



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• Are your lady or man bits feeling a little dull? Learn how to glitz things up with Ashley's guide to genital piercings, **B3**.



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NEWS

High salaries attract more grads to financial fields

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been demonstrated that graduates, even from schools like Hopkins, will change their careers at least once and, oftentimes, two or more times over a lifetime. Even for those many Hopkins students going into medicine and health care, the vast majority will change their career choice from what they may have hinted in a professional school interview," Verrier commented.

The large amount of recruitment on campus for the finance field is also contributing to the career choices of Hopkins students.

"Business firms are taking a good look at engineering students. Major is only one factor in what an employer is looking for. Work experience and quantitative abilities are also very important for these companies," said Mark Presnell, Director of the Career Center.

Juino George Karikas, a mechanical engineering major, believes that graduate schools and employers will look at the classes one has taken, but suggests that it may not matter if you can demonstrate the technical skills necessary.

"An internship at Boeing can be the equivalent of several classes in aeronautics," he posed.

Fifty-nine percent of graduates from the class of 2005 reported having had at least one internship, the majority of whom had two or more internships.

October and February are the busiest months at the Career Center, as many students are starting to look for job opportunities. Graduating students look to find ideal employers, while underclassmen search for summer internships. Monetary concerns play a key role in the search for employment.



COURTESY OF JIM SPOSTO
Brian Follweiler, class of '06, now works at a web design company, Sposto Interactive in Kutztown, Pa.

Sixty percent of undergraduate students at Hopkins are on need-based financial aid. According to the Office of Financial Aid, students who graduate from Hopkins within four years have an average debt of \$14,000.

Students who graduated from the School of Arts and Sciences in 2005 reported an average annual salary of \$34,863, while students who graduated from the School of Engineering reported an average salary of \$48,197. Many students who choose to enter graduate school are discouraged, if not forbidden, by their programs from finding part-time jobs.

In addition to those graduates who chose full-time employment, graduate or professional school, 11 percent of students had chosen to work for the government or a non-profit agency, another 11 percent in engineering, 10 percent in education, five percent in arts, communications and entertainment, five percent in law and five percent in information technology.

Of the 42 percent of respondents enrolled in graduate or professional school, the three leading fields of study were medicine at 27 percent, engineering and computer science at 19 percent, and biological sciences at 14 percent. The most common advanced degree being pursued was a Master's, followed by a Ph.D.

Carey school forces students to change programs

With the schools of business and education merging, current business students must finish degree requirements by '08

By ANUM AZAM

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Not all students are celebrating the recent openings of the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School and the School of Education. For some, the move means a forced transfer into a different degree program than the one in which they are currently involved, according to Assistant Dean of External Affairs Chris Godack.

On Jan. 1 the former School of Professional Studies in Business and Education (SPSBE) was divided into the two new schools as a result of a \$50 million gift for business education from Hopkins trustee emeritus William Polk Carey through his W. P. Carey Foundation.

"Both [the business and education] programs have existed for a long time, and both are well-developed. There was a feeling that both are at a place in history where they are ready to stand on their own, and have an impact," Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs Dennis O'Shea said.

O'Shea cites the establishments of the new schools as an opportunity to take a stronger role in Baltimore's economy and education.

In a University press release, President William R. Brody explained that the new business and education schools will seek to augment existing graduate-level programs, such as SPSBE's joint master's/MBA programs in biotechnology, public health and nursing.

The Carey Business School will add a five-year B.A.-B.S./MBA option for liberal arts and engineering students in Hopkins undergraduate programs. To prepare for this further education, Brody said, students should take the Entrepreneurship and Management minor offered to undergraduates.

However, according to O'Shea,

the University has not yet announced when the five-year program will begin.

Godack said, "Now the two divisions of SPSBE are able to focus better on their mission and be their own special schools."

According to O'Shea, it is too early to tell precisely how the new programs will affect current undergraduate degree programs.

But it is clear that the changes are bad news for many undergraduate students at the business school, whose courses are now a part of the Carey Business School. Students who are pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies must now either finish by May 31, 2008, or pursue a different degree, possibly at a different university, because the program is "being phased out," according to a letter sent by the school to undergraduate business and technology students.

Additionally, students interested in applying for the Bachelor of Science in Business and Management (BSBM) and the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems (BSIS) "must have 60 college credits along with any other admission requirements," the letter read.

"Effective immediately, no applications are being processed for the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, as this degree program is being phased out," the letter states.

In fact, the Carey Business School will no longer offer any lower-level courses or interdisciplinary studies courses after May 31, 2008.

A University press release addresses the change in degree requirements, stating, "As in the past, programs will continue to change in response to evolving professional standards, environmental conditions and new ideas generated by the faculty and leadership. Current students should continue to follow pro-

grams of study approved by their advisors."

For BSBM and BSIS students, the changes mean that after May 2008 their degree programs will continue to exist, but "strictly" as upper-level programs offering only 300 and 400-level classes. This means that students taking lower-level courses as part of the BSBM and BSIS programs are directly affected and must alter their program plans.

For the former Interdisciplinary Studies student, the discontinuation of his degree program presents him with some choices, which are outlined on the Hopkins Undergraduate Web site.

The site states that for those close to completing their degree requirements, the best option is to simply continue to take courses through the next 15 months and try to finish by May 2008.

If the student cannot complete specific requirements for the social science or communications concentration, he will be allowed to switch to general studies, the site explains.

Students who have finished the interdisciplinary studies re-

quirements must now either take up to 27 credits of business courses and apply these to the BSIS degree as electives, or take up to 12 credits at another university and transfer these into the new Carey Business School.

Students also have the option to take up to two independent projects for a total of six credits.

However, there are many students "for whom the prospects of completing the BSIS degree look unlikely," as the Web site explains.

These students are encouraged to change their degree program to BSBM or BSIS or to transfer their credits into a degree program at another university.

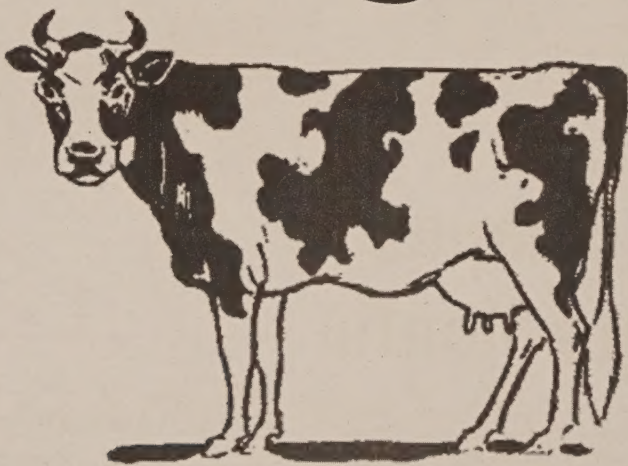
Interim Dean of the Carey Business School Pam Cranston and Dean of the School of Education Ralph Fessler, along with Charlene Hayes, the vice president for human resources, will consider changes to Hopkins' tuition remission policies with regard to the students in the last category.

The school will also investigate possibilities in partnering with local universities and community colleges, the site concludes.



COURTESY OF HOPKINS DMM
Ralph Fessler, dean of the School of Education, joined the University in 1983.

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NEWS

News in Brief

MLK Service Ceremony held at Hopkins

The 10 recipients of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Awards, which honor local volunteer work, were honored at the MLK Jr. Commemoration ceremony held at Hopkins on Jan. 19. Every year, committees of faculty and staff evaluate nominees at their institutions and then recommend a select number to the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration executive committee, which chooses the award's recipients. The panel uses five criteria: how important the project is to the soundness of the community, how well the project was received and supported, the impact of the nominee on the project as a whole, his or her impact on the community, and the person's commitment to the project.

This year the selected honorees were given to a particularly diverse set, among them a researcher at the School of Public Health, a program chair in the School of Arts and Sciences, and a security guard at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

— Yasin Akbari

Physicist receives teaching award

Hopkins physicist Bruce Barnett has received the Maryland Association of Higher Education (MAHE) for his original approach to teaching undergraduate introductory physics and for his part in bringing physics and astronomy to the general public. Barnett will receive the award on March 9 at the MAHE's conference at the University of Maryland University College.

Barnett has been breaking ground in and out of the classroom throughout his 31 years at Hopkins. He was part of the research team that discovered the top quark in 1994. "Seeing



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Physics professor Bruce Barnett received a prominent Maryland award for teaching.

our data for the top quark slowly build up over about a year from just a 'hint' to something one could call 'evidence' to a declaration of 'discovery' was very exciting and gratifying," Barnett said.

Barnett has always been an innovative teacher, constantly looking for new ways to interest students in the study of physics. Barnett was one of the first in his department to introduce a "Classroom Performance System" (CPS). He was also instrumental to the creation of the University's annual Physics Fair, which features physics-related activities and demonstrations for the public each April.

This isn't the first time Barnett has been lauded for his teaching abilities. In 2006 he won the George E. Owen Teaching Award for his outstanding devotion to undergraduate education and he has also received the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award.

"Knowing that you taught a student something and helped move them forward along their career path is a good feeling," Barnett said. "Getting a letter back from a student many years

later updating you on their life is very fulfilling."

— Hannah Diamond

New outpatient center launched

Hopkins will soon open a new outpatient facility thanks to the generosity of trustee David Rubenstein, managing director of one of the world's largest private equity firms, the Carlyle Group. The \$20 million project will be called the David M. Rubenstein Child Health Building at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center and will be solely devoted to children and adolescent health care. Although Medical Faculty Dean Edward D. Miller was not able to be reached this week as he is out of town, he told the *Gazette* that he felt that Rubenstein's gift will usher in "an exciting new era in Hopkins history."

The building is planned to contain all primary care clinics for minors, including the Harriet Lane Clinic, which has a historic, almost century-old commitment to the well-being of poor and minority children. It contains nonsurgical outpatient and ambulatory clinics

and offices for pediatrics faculty. The David M. Rubenstein Child Health Building will be located at the intersection of Wolfe and Orleans streets, and will be complemented by the new 205-bed Children's Hospital, which will be standing across the street by 2010.

Rubenstein's generous gift counts toward the Johns Hopkins Knowledge for the World Campaign, which as of Dec. 31, 2006, had raised more than \$2.438 billion toward its \$3.2 billion goal. The Campaign, among other things, plans primarily to strengthen endowment for student aid and faculty support, to advance research, academic, and clinical projects, and to build and develop physical facilities on all campuses.

— Yasin Akbari

Fellows chosen for '07 Program at SAIS

Seven American journalists, one of whom is also the third winner of the NPR-Bucksbaum International Fellowship, have been awarded International Reporting Project (IRP) Fellowships by the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) for the 14-week 2007 spring program.

"The International Reporting Project at SAIS aims to improve the quality and the quantity of international stories in the U.S. media," Sonja Matanovic, the communications coordinator for the IRP, said. "The fellowships equip journalists with new skills, knowledge and contacts they can take back to their newsrooms with the confidence that they can not only carry out international reporting projects on their own but they can capture the attention of their local U.S. audiences with international stories."

The fellowship includes nine weeks of study in Washington, D.C. and five weeks of individual overseas reporting. One of the journalists chosen for the IRP has also received the NPR-Bucksbaum

International Fellowship, which includes an additional six weeks of training with National Public Radio. The recipient is Shereen Meraji, a radio journalist from Los Angeles focusing on Lebanon.

The other six journalists and their focuses are Vanessa Gezari, focusing on Liberia; Steve Kiehl, focusing on Mexico; Nikole Kilian, focusing on South Africa; Christina Larson, focusing on China; Jessica Reaves, focusing on Senegal; and Greg Warner, focusing on Afghanistan.

— Hannah Diamond

Hopkins alum named an "Eco-Hero" in U.K.

The British Government's Environment Agency recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, composing a list of the century's top 100 "eco-heroes," the first of whom was Hopkins alumnus Rachel Carson.

A zoologist and marine biologist who lived from 1907 to 1964, Carson was honored for her lifetime devotion to the protection of the environment, particularly against pesticides and pollution.

Carson, who studied both zoology and genetics at Hopkins, and earned a Master's in zoology in 1932, is well-known for her revolutionary book *Silent Spring* which protested the use of pesticides for their far-reaching effects on the environment and its various ecosystems.

Silent Spring is widely considered to be a work that pioneered the modern international environmental movement.

David Bookhart, a member of the Johns Hopkins Sustainability Committee, said, "I think it is a great tribute to a real visionary who introduced ideas that were so vivid, compelling, and urgent that she single-handedly launched the environmental movement."

Of her association with the school, he said, "We should be

proud that she came from Hopkins, and it is important we continue her work here by making Hopkins a showpiece of environmental stewardship worthy of her memory."

— Allie Watson

UNC misinforms applicant status

The University of North Carolina recently misinformed 2,073 of their second deadline applicants about their application statuses in a misdirected e-mail.

On Jan. 23, staff in the university's admissions office sent out an e-mail to over 2,000 prospective students, whose applications are actually still pending an admission decision. The e-mail began with: "Congratulations again on your admission to the University. We require all admitted students to submit midyear grades to us online."

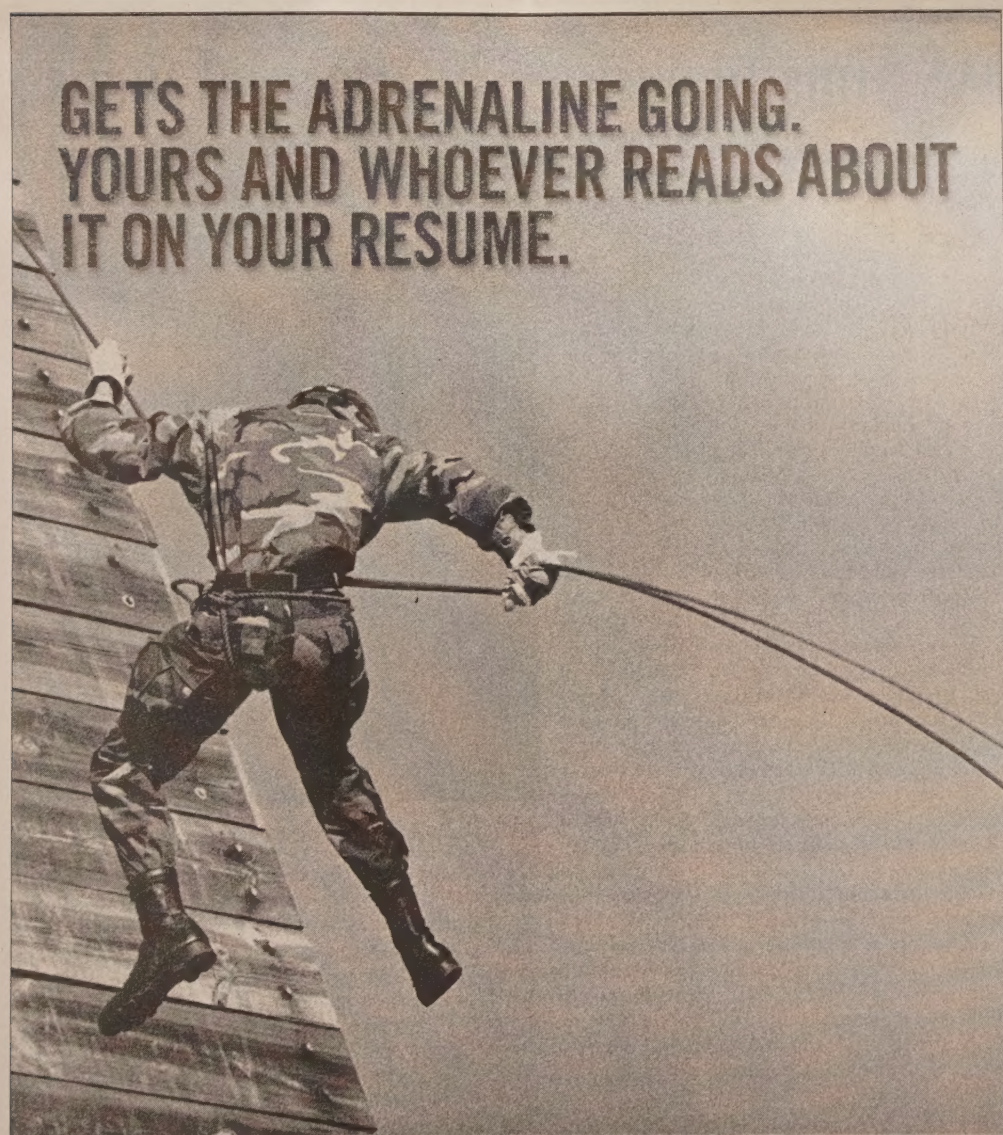
This e-mail was intended for those students who had already been accepted to the university after the school's first application deadline and were being requested to report on the grades they had received following their acceptance to the university.

The admissions office has reported in a public statement that the mistake was "the result of two simultaneous human errors."

Stephen Farmer, director of Undergraduate Admissions at UNC, said in the same statement, "We continue to regret this error and to focus on these candidates, who have honored us by applying for admission to Carolina and who deserve our respect and care."

The admissions office has emailed apologies to the affected students and has also contacted 2,323 guidance counselors to explain the situation and give students and parents an opportunity to contact the school about any concerns they might still have regarding the matter.

— Allie Watson



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NEWS

BSU brings cultural perspectives to campus

Among the planned events are a poetry slam at Nolan's, a showing of the film *Stomp the Yard*, and an "Evening of the Arts"

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chief who became one of the few black landowners in the original 13 American colonies in the 1730s.

He described the accomplishments of his grandmother and grandfather, both of whom

were distinguished in public service. His grandmother graduated at the top of her class from the University of Pennsylvania, and received a degree from the University of Maryland School of Law, eventually becoming the first female black

lawyer in Maryland. His grandfather was a lobbyist for the NAACP in Washington, D.C., and played a key role in the development of many of the most important bills passed during the civil rights movement of the late 1960s, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

"There will be times when people will try to write off your history.... Know who you are," Mitchell concluded.

Mitchell also made mention of this past fall's Sigma Chi incident, which erupted after the fraternity hosted a controversial Halloween party. Mitchell said that had his grandparents been alive today, they would have been standing on North Charles Street protesting alongside the BSU against the fraternity.

Chapman ex-

plained that because of the controversy, this year's celebration would be even more relevant to the Hopkins community.

"The events of last semester simply remind us of the attitudes of racism, discrimination, and insensitivity that have been alive and well on campus, and in America, for many years," Chapman commented.

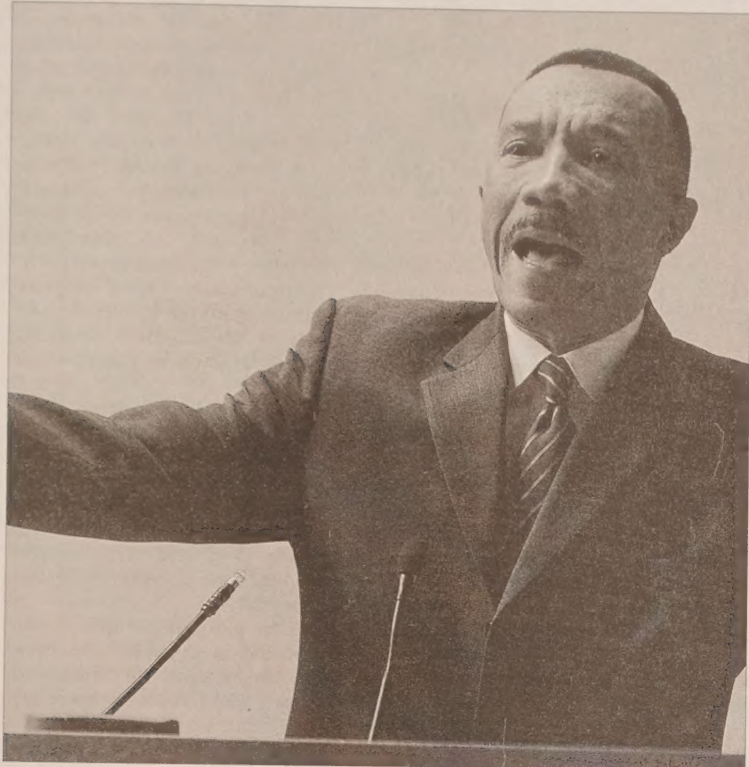
The BSU has planned several events to celebrate the month, including a poetry slam at Nolan's, a screening hosted by Sigma

Gamma Rho of the recent film *Stomp the Yard*, and a fashion show. Events will culminate in an "Evening of the Arts," held on Feb. 28 in Levering's Great Hall.

"For those who feel they have never seen racism in practice, or for those who would simply like to embrace a beautiful people with a vibrant history, Black History Month is a time to come together and learn and contribute perspectives, both old and new," Chapman said.

Black History Month is a time to come together and learn and contribute perspectives, both old and new.

— CHRISTINA CHAPMAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK
STUDENT UNION



COURTESY OF WWW.SONYPICTURES.COM

As part of Black History Month, the BSU is showing *Stomp the Yard*, a college dance drama.

Contractor claims sensitive information likely destroyed

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containing the tapes was collected as garbage and incinerated.

"At no time do we believe the information on the tapes was accessed and we are virtually certain that the tapes were destroyed," Anacomp marketing director Karen DelPrete said. The courier who misplaced the tapes was subcontracted by Anacomp.

"In concert with Johns Hopkins, our investigation has concluded that a courier, hired from another company, had mistakenly left the box at an intermediate destination before reaching Anacomp," DelPrete said. The investigation found that the box was left next to a dumpster.

"The overwhelming likelihood, based upon a thorough examination of those familiar with the site and trash disposal operations, is that the box was collected as garbage within a

matter of hours and incinerated later that evening," she continued.

According to Dennis O'Shea, Director of Community Affairs and Public Relations, the University is confident in the information that they received from the courier because he passed a voluntary polygraph test. The University also reviewed security footage from Anacomp confirming that the tapes never reached their intended destination.

President Brody released a statement explaining that the eight tapes belonging to the University contained names of current and former employees, Social Security numbers, birth dates, salary, deductions, retirement plan contributions and, for employees paid through direct deposit, bank account information. The one other Hopkins tape included more general demographic information on 83,000 patients recorded into the hos-

pital system between July 4 and Dec. 18, 2006.

"It took a few weeks to investigate this thoroughly, figure out what was on the tapes and who needed to be notified," O'Shea said.

The University has not yet decided what action may be taken with regard to the parties involved.

"We have suspended shipments to Anacomp but we are re-evaluating our relationship with them at this point," O'Shea added.

The University has notified everyone whose information was included in the back-up tapes so that they can judge for themselves whether they need to take action.

"Unless they tell me specifically what I need to do, I'm not going to rearrange my bank account. That's overkill," sophomore Brian Hanes, a student employee, said.

Hanes was also concerned that

the University took two weeks to reveal the missing computer tapes.

"I would like it if the University would be more up front about it, but I don't know if I would have done anything differently if they had told us earlier," Hanes said.

StuCo votes down policy proposal on energy use

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
said senior Blake Hough and freshman Teryn Norris-Hale, two leading members of HEAT.

Laura Hansell, president of Student Council, was unwilling to comment on some aspects of the council's decision because the vote occurred during a closed session.

"StuCo did not feel that it would be appropriate to pass such a letter because of the nuanced and slightly political nature of the issue, as well as our uncertainty of if our endorsing the letter would truly be reflective of the Student Body opinion," Hansell said.

In the letter, HEAT also noted the economic benefits of jobs that would be created by such a policy.

"The schools reap pure profit from any efforts in energy efficiency and reducing consumption, Hough and Norris-Hale said. "Renewable energy investments, while seemingly expensive in up-front costs, not only give a return within 10 to 15 years but also hedge against the likely increase in the future cost of fossil fuel energy."

Hough and Norris-Hale disagreed with Hansell, stating that by delaying the passage of this resolution, StuCo "is failing" to represent the interests of Hopkins students.

"StuCo has an enormous opportunity to take initiative on an issue the student body feels very strongly about. We feel like the support of StuCo will express to our administration in clear terms that the Hopkins community wants action on this issue," they argued.

Hansell stated that the Council's rejection of the letter "does not mean that StuCo does not value the environment or see Hopkins' role in preserving it."

According to Hough and Norris-Hale, the two organizations will work together to change some of the specific language in the letter so as to convey a more

general resolution on the importance of the issue and the concerns of the student body.

The letter will then be presented again at the next StuCo meeting.

After gaining support from StuCo, Hough and Norris-Hale hope to work with administrators. The two remain optimistic that the administration will approve the REP 2015 policy, saying, "The overwhelming majority of students, student organizations, and prospective students at Hopkins support such a policy."

The preamble of REP 2015 calls on the University to establish and maintain carbon neutrality by 2015.

Carbon neutrality would involve changing Homewood's energy consumption with regard to electricity, heating and transportation fuels, so that there is zero net carbon emission. HEAT believes that anything less than adoption of a carbon neutral policy would be "a failure on the part of the Hopkins administration."

"HEAT created REP 2015 because we realize that climate change is the defining challenge facing our generation in the 21st century — and we believe the world's leading climate scientists when they tell us that we have only until 2015 to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change," Hough and Norris-Hale said.

Hough and Norris-Hale also emphasize the other positive aspects that acceptance of such a policy could bring Hopkins, saying, "It puts Hopkins at forefront of an increasingly popular issue, attracts attention in the form of donor money and prospective students, and in the long run will save them money."

HEAT's suggestions for improving energy efficiency on campus include continuing retrofits of boilers, ventilation systems and lighting, as well as adding motion detectors to lights and vending machines.

FAS aims to sustain intellectual focus

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"We tried to expand the breadth and depth of the symposium this year by including some topics that have never before been discussed in depth on campus through FAS," fellow senior co-chair Matt Longley explained.

The co-chairs consider Jeffrey Sachs and Rajiv Chandrasekaran as two highlights of this year's symposium. Sachs, professor and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, recently published the book *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, which "discusses possibilities for a poverty-free future," Kulkarni said.

Chandrasekaran is the assistant managing editor of *The Washington Post* and the author of the new book, *Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone*, which critically chronicles the reconstruction efforts that have been headed by the American political presence in Iraq.

Other speakers include the aforementioned Mukhtar Mai, an activist for women's rights in Pakistan, and Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.

The Symposium's topic will also be discussed in a panel format, inviting several experts

in the same field to speak on a specific issue. This format allows for more discussion-based dialogue not only among the speakers but also between the students and the speakers themselves.

"FAS has a strong academic reputation," co-chair Leona Say said. "We pride ourselves in organizing panels of scholars, researchers, and experts in various fields to discuss relevant topics in foreign affairs and international relations."

The process of arranging and securing speakers was described

as a long and difficult task by members of the relatively small 12-person staff of FAS, an organization reputedly known for its selectivity.

"Securing speakers is the hardest thing about planning for FAS," freshman Katie Collins explained. "Some of the people we pursued only took a few e-mails and phone calls, whereas others were chased extensively for months with no success."

"We begin the process over the summer, calling assistants and speaking agencies as well as trying to identify speakers that have a connection with the Hopkins community. After we get in contact with an interested speaker, we then have to arrange a date that is most convenient for [him or her]" said Elizabeth Caudle, a sophomore.

Caudle also noted that the limited budget of FAS was an obstacle to securing some of the more prominent

speakers.

"It would be easier to secure speakers if we did have a larger budget," she said. "Because we finance most of our events through sponsorship and donations it is often difficult to pay the honorariums requested



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Rajiv Chandrasekaran, author and editor, will speak for FAS.

by big-name speakers as some of them command upwards of \$100,000 for one speaking engagement."

According to sophomore Charlie Sido, finance chair of FAS, "[FAS] reached out to various university departments as well as local businesses [for their financial support]."

Some of the sponsors include the JHU Alumni Association, the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, the Student Council and the undergraduate International Studies Program.

This year's symposium arrives on the heels of what is considered to be one of the most successful symposiums held to date by last year's FAS and is led by programming chairs Kulkarni, Longley, and Say, and finance chair Sido.

"The quality of the FAS has improved markedly over the past few years," Steven David, director of the undergraduate International Studies Program, remarked. "FAS has been a wonderful success story and I hope that future groups can keep up the momentum."

Hopkins sees increase in total applications

Hopkins' largest applicant pool came from California, bypassing several northeastern states

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
attention.

"Our national reputation has also become more all-encompassing — I hear just as much about our excellent International Studies and bioengineering programs as I do our consistently strong opportunities in the natural sciences," Amy Brokl, associate director of Admissions, said.

Indeed, the School of Engineering has been growing the fastest of all the undergraduate programs, and engineering students currently make up about one third of the freshman class. About 27 percent of the applications that have been read so far are from prospective engineering students.

The boost in numbers of applying students might also be explained by the annual one-percent increase in the number of total high-school graduates nationwide.

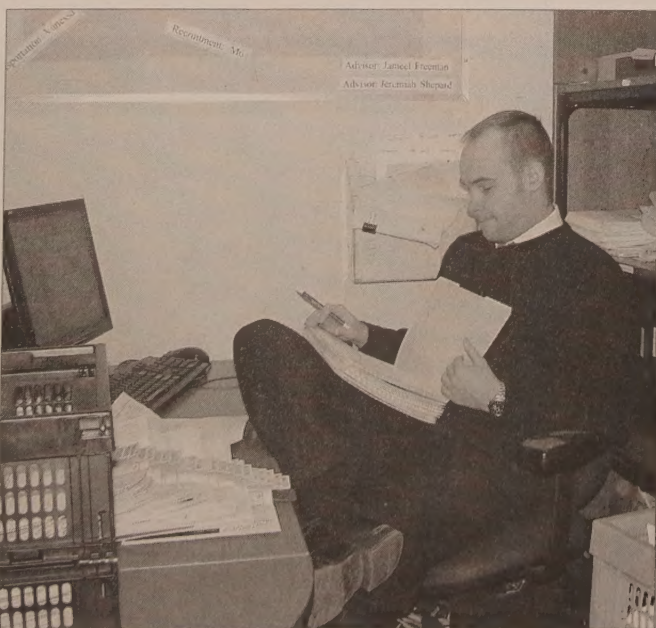
"In a perfect world we would come up slightly under the target in May and work our way back with a very small number of admissions off the wait list," Latting explained. This would give the school more control over the number of incoming students. Though exceeding such targets can often lead to overcrowding, it is yet another indication of the "upward trend in the appeal of

Johns Hopkins," according to Latting.

For the first time in admissions history, New Jersey, New York and Maryland were surpassed by California as the state that generated the most applications. "[It's] impressive," Brokl, who is the admissions reader for the state, noted.

Freshman Kate Flores, a member of the Student Admis-

sions Advisory Board commented, "I'm pleasantly awed by the applications I do read. I'm pretty sure the ones that I file but don't read are just as impressive. I don't know how the admissions counselors decide which students to admit and which ones to deny," Flores said. "Many of them have done things I've only dreamed of doing," she added.



SARAH SABSHON/NEWSLETTER

Admissions readers began their job before the Jan. 1 deadline for the first time.

This **Valentine's Day**, have a heart
by donating blood or volunteering at the next
Homewood Campus Red Cross Blood Drive,
set for **Wednesday** and **Thursday, February 14 and 15**,
8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
in the **Glass Pavilion, Levering Hall.**

There will be plenty of sweethearts and other candy,
plus each participant will receive
a long-sleeve, vintage green Red Cross shirt.

Held during Black History Month,
the February drive also commemorates
the contributions of Dr. Charles Drew,
the African-American scientist
and first Red Cross blood bank director
who developed and pioneered
the techniques for blood transfusions and blood banks
that are in use today.

To honor his work and address a modern day need,
faculty, staff and students who are interested
may also **register** to become a **bone marrow donor** at the drive,
between the hours of **9 a.m. and 3 p.m.**
Marrow donor registrants do not need to donate blood to register.

For information on the marrow registry, donating blood, volunteering
or to make an appointment,
go to **<http://www.jhu.edu/outreach/blooddrive/schedule.html>**
or contact **John Black** in the Office of Faculty, Staff and Retiree Programs
by email at **jblack1@jhu.edu**
or call **410-516-0138**.

O r i e n t a t i o n 2 0 0 7

Invitation

J O H N S H O P K I N S
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The Johns Hopkins Orientation program is inviting you to be a part of the 2007 program.
Take the opportunity to welcome the Class of 2011 .

Orientation Staff Applications Are Available

Apply at www.orientation.jhu.edu

For any other questions, Please contact orientation@jhu.edu

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

StuCo ineffectual ... again

Most of the denizens of Hopkins will leave this school remembering the Student Council for very little besides the occasional campus-wide party or electoral scandal, and for good reason. But despite having been recently presented with an opportunity to change this perception by taking a substantive stand on the University's environmental policies, StuCo continues to adamantly refuse the very responsibilities for which they have been elected — namely, to take positions that will positively affect the University on behalf of the students.

When the Council refused to support the Hopkins Energy Action Team's perfectly sensible letter calling for the University to pursue carbon neutrality, they again consigned themselves to a status of inconsequence. More importantly, they threw away the chance to stand behind an important, environmentally responsible initiative that the University should indeed adopt.

According to StuCo President Laura Hansell, this decision was made because the resolution suggested a policy of carbon neutrality as a way to combat global warming — an issue that the Council decided was too “nuanced” and “political” to fall under its auspices. But if StuCo, the only representative organization for students at Hopkins, insists on sidestepping every potentially controversial issue, how can they hope to effect substantive change? This stubborn avoidance of all that is deemed “nuanced” — that is, any subject with the possibility of dissent — does not suggest that StuCo is a particularly capable organization. Rather, it is convincing proof that its members are too apathetic to engage in the kind of debates that should be welcomed among students.

An even more egregious mistake is that the Council has bought into the “political” debate over global warming. There is nothing radical about a plan to adopt a policy of carbon neutrality, nor is it unrealistic for a University with the most advanced technology at its fingertips to aspire to such a goal. It is now undeniable that climate change is occurring — very few issues are supported by the sheer quantity of empirical evidence and level of consensus within the scientific community that upholds the claims for global warming. What is more, Congress is increasingly bipartisan on the issue. It is shortsighted, even delusional, for StuCo to dismiss the weight of this evidence as mere politics.

The Council also claims that the resolution did not pass because its members were unsure whether the resolution reflected the general opinion of the student body. But such an excuse is invalidated when the Council seems to have made little effort to determine the student body's opinion. The Council even voted on the resolution at a closed meeting, which keeps the distribution of votes a secret from the very students whose opinions the Council purports to respect. Whether the problem is hypocrisy or simple incompetence, StuCo's inability to determine the views of those they are representing must be remedied.

The truly disappointing aspect of StuCo's rejection of this resolution is not that it confirms the Council's ineffectualness — the real farce is that the Council is apparently content with its reputation. We continue to hope that the University will take seriously the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2015, as suggested by HEAT's resolution. But if it does, it will be no thanks to StuCo.

Another impressive FAS

In a university filled with underwhelming student organizations, the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) continues to shine. No group on campus has been more consistent in fulfilling its mission or impressive in its impact. We are also happy to note that this year's symposium represents marked improvement over its already admirable predecessors.

Over the last three years, FAS has reinvented itself as an intellectual force with enough appeal to attract reticent students and Baltimore locals. In 2004, it hosted such notables as *Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer, prominent televangelist and Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson, and powerhouse intellectual Tariq Ali.

Those names drew crowds, but the following year FAS took a different tack, preferring to indulge in a purely academic program, long on learned debate, but short on attraction. The symposium matured in 2006 and melded its academic aspirations with major star power. The diverse array of speakers included Thomas Friedman, globalization guru and *New York Times* op-ed columnist, Chris Matthews of MSNBC's *Hard Ball*, and Francis Fukuyama, one of the country's leading public intellectuals.

The 2007 FAS staff appears to have found the elusive medium between genuine academic prowess and celebrity. Jeffrey Sachs is probably the most prolific of this year's crop and a fantastic choice. Sachs, along with the likes of Joseph Stiglitz, Paul Krugman and

Steven Levitt, is one of the few serious American economic thinkers who can convey a powerful message in public fora. His dedication to eradicating poverty should also prove inspiring to the student body.

Rajiv Chandrasekaran looks to be the other star of this year's symposium and he is another excellent selection. His recent book *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*, which serves as a scathing and necessary indictment of the incompetence and self-delusion of the Coalition Provisional Authority in the days following the American invasion of Iraq, has made waves. Chandrasekaran brings to the Iraq debate the sort of fact-based thinking that often seems so lacking in the halls of American power and will no doubt prove a refreshing and elucidating orator.

Overall, we are impressed with the breadth of topics covered in this year's Foreign Affairs Symposium, as well as the list of comparatively unusual faces that have been invited to discuss the Middle East, ever embroiled in crisis and in need of explication. Azar Nafisi, author of the best selling memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, is particularly welcome during this time of heightened American-Iranian strife.

We hope the rest of the student body is as excited as we are about the upcoming Symposium. It is a testament to the staff's perseverance and sincere enthusiasm that they have managed to produce the best lineup the already extraordinary group has featured in years.

No info on lost info

About two weeks ago, someone may have stolen your identity. He or she may have used your credit cards, accessed your bank accounts or done pretty much anything else that requires a social security number.

Since it only takes a couple clicks of the mouse to use such information for nefarious purposes, you're probably wondering why you didn't find out about this when it happened. So are we.

The University disclosed this week the news that it has lost the payroll files of nearly 53,000 University employees and hospital patients — files that include such sensitive personal information as social security numbers and bank codes.

The announcement, sent by President Brody via University-wide e-mail yesterday, included an apology on behalf of the administration's senior leadership and recommendations on how to secure your personal information. What it didn't include was a reason why the University withheld the details of this potentially catastrophic incident for nearly two weeks.

In his statement, Brody urged those whose information might be vulnerable to request a free credit report and place a fraud alert on all their accounts

— precautionary measures that would have probably been much more effective two weeks ago, when the information was first discovered lost.

But if the University is not going to alert the nearly 53,000 people possibly affected by such a lapse in a timely manner, it can at least explain fully the details of what happened. Unfortunately, it has neglected to do that as well.

No one from the University associated with the investigation — or even senior members of the administration — will disclose the exact details of what happened to the bank account information and social security numbers of nearly 53,000 University employees and hospital patients last month. Rather than tell us where the information went and who might have had access to it, they have simply said that the files have “most likely been destroyed.”

Identity theft can have devastating personal and financial consequences, and the tens of thousands of University employees vulnerable to such victimization should be given the full story on what happened. This is one area of security on which we simply cannot afford to take the University's word for it.

Editorial Commentary: Zach Goodman

Braving the bitter cold

It's cold. Cold enough that we have to spirit from building to building, bundled like Sherpas, to resist the temptation of falling into hypothermic sleep on the upper quad. So cold we don't know where our cigarette smoke ends and our breath begins. So cold that our 1985 Mercedes Benz diesel station wagon refuses to start, preventing us from getting to New Jersey to see the Mastodon show at the Starland Ballroom after we already bought the ticket. It's damn cold.

This is the bleakest time of the year, the time when simply waking up means betraying our bodies' every desire. Each layer of clothing smacks forebodingly against the skin, one after the next heightening the anxiety of that first moment outside when the wind slaps us in the face and turns our 10-minute trek into a crusade against the elements.

We envy the noble grizzly bear, and not just for his incredible killing power. Evolution has blessed him with the good sense to turn the world off for a few months, cuing it up again right when it becomes more hospitable. But for we homo erectus, the world persists,

long after the grizzlies have sneered their last wakeful sneer at us from the comfort of their cozy caves.

Yet, our humanity lies in our ability to cope. We have moved beyond the bear. When we don't like our present situation, we improve it. When life hands us ice, we make ice water. Okay, bad example. But we could also shape the ice into a convex lens and use it to start a fire.

So make hot cocoa. Learn to crochet (keep warm and entertained). Drink plenty of rye whiskey to stave off the bad humors. Turn the heat up in your apartment, find streaming video of a roaring fireplace online and curl up with a loved one, a really-liked one or a fat person (they give off plenty of heat). Look at pictures of polar bears or emperor penguins. They're both much colder than you, and they're both adorable.

Perhaps the campus will soon be covered in a blanket of snow and we'll be too consumed by childlike romance to be concerned with the cold. Until then, bring on the ice. We take our whiskey on the rocks.

Xiao-bo Yuan



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *News-Letter* received no letters to the editor this week.

LETTERS POLICY

The *Johns Hopkins News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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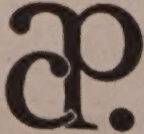
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Tech giants fail to appeal

By IAN PLOSKER

Last Wednesday Microsoft released Windows Vista, the latest version of its Windows operating system. In 1995, when Microsoft released Windows 95, consumers lined up outside of stores, hoping to be among the first to install the new operating system. Yet Vista is not even among the five best-selling software titles on Amazon. Press reviews of Vista have been less than enthusiastic. So, what has gone wrong for Microsoft in the past 12 years?

Before the launch of Windows XP in 2001, Microsoft had already begun planning the next incarnation of Windows, codenamed "Longhorn." Microsoft had planned for Longhorn to ship sometime in 2003. What Microsoft had not planned for were the innumerable bugs and security holes in XP. This forced them to pull developers off Longhorn and instead have them focus on securing XP, pushing back the shipping date of Longhorn.

After releasing a Windows XP upgrade in mid-2004, Microsoft was finally able to concentrate on Longhorn, now officially Windows Vista. A year behind schedule, Microsoft added to Vista numerous features planned for future versions of Windows, while scrapping other previously promised features. They also discarded much code they had already written, further delaying the release date.

The result is that after over five years of development, Microsoft has shipped its new operating system more than three years late, and short on features. Microsoft has put half a billion dollars into a marketing campaign to sell their deficient new operating system. They tout its security features, user interface, instant search, and graphics capabilities, but its critics claim that most of these features have been part of competing operating systems for a few years now, specifically Apple's Mac OS X 10.4. Many consumers have also been complaining about software incompatibility issues that have emerged with Vista.

Microsoft has lost its ability to interest consumers because consumers' experiences with Microsoft products over the past five years have generally been dismal. They have become accustomed to so-called malware (malicious software, such as viruses and spyware) taking control of their PCs and they are not interested in Vista because they have no reason to believe Microsoft's claims that this operating system is more secure or in any way superior to its predecessors. Microsoft has not given consumers justification for upgrading.

But Microsoft's discontents do not end there. For the first time in nearly ten years, Microsoft has viable competitors. Apple is, once again, becoming a real contender in the desktop operating system market. OS X has had many of Vista's capabilities for two years or more. And in stark contrast to Microsoft, security has not been an issue for Apple thus far. Apple's developers are also staying ahead of their sluggish counterparts at Microsoft. The next version of Mac OS X, with features well beyond Vista's, is scheduled to ship this spring.

Of course, it is the iPod that has brought Apple to the fore. Apple's greatest virtue is its consumer-centric attitude. Unlike Microsoft, Apple realizes that to sell its products it needs to make them simple and appealing. At some point in the last 12 years, Microsoft lost sight of this.

However, this dynamic is not limited to Apple and Microsoft. Recently, we have seen other examples of the big players in consumer technology markets being overtaken by more consumer-friendly companies. Over the holidays, Sony and Nintendo released their new console gaming systems, the PlayStation 3 and Wii respectively. Sony's system is more feature-laden, albeit more expensive, while Nintendo's is cheap and most notable for its novel and intuitive control scheme. Nintendo, despite its well-known brand is a relatively small player in the game console market. The company overtook Sony in sales and press coverage thanks to its more consumer-oriented product.

Microsoft is in a similar position to Sony. It is the dominant player in the market, yet is now contending with smaller companies with strong consumer appeal. Microsoft can spend as much it pleases trying to market Vista, but it will have a difficult time selling it. If Microsoft wishes to keep its market share, it must begin to not merely market products, but rather to make simple, reliable goods that consumers actually want.

Ian Plosker is a junior computer science major and freelance programmer from Delray Beach, Fla.

At Hopkins, the times they are a-changin'

Joshua Robinson

Eva Mendes was wearing nothing but boots, and she was staring at me. I still had on my winter coat — Cheerios box in one hand, two-liter Pepsi in the other. This was my first visit to the Charles Street Market, a new University-run grocery store that opened this week in Wolman Hall. Sadly, Eva was confined to the front cover of *Maxim* magazine, which sat in a rack near the cash registers. Neither Eva nor I knew that I was on the verge of a moment of epiphany.

I hesitated briefly, imagining Professor David catching me perusing such a man-mag. ("No really, professor, I just wanted to read the article 'Double Your Strength! 30 Days to a Killer Core.'") However, the forces of testosterone quickly overcame the inhibitions of potential public humiliation. Before long, I was standing in line with the magazine sheepishly hidden under my Cheerios.

Imagine my horror when I realized that the famous Dolores was working the cash register this night. Dolores: the nicest, kindest, most cool-grandmotherly employee in all of Hopkins. How could I break to her that Maxim had successfully appealed to my baser instincts? It was like buying condoms from your aunt. But there was no turning back. Other shoppers had closed ranks behind me.

As Dolores ran the magazine under the scanner, her eye seemed to linger on the magazine. Flushed, I tried to play it cool. And then she asked The Question, the one that made me realize just how drastically life at Hopkins has changed in the past four years.

"Will that be Dining Dollars?"

For a moment I was speechless. *You can buy Maxim with Dining Dollars?* Stunned, I paid with cash and walked out into the snowy night.

The experience made me realize, with a mixture of delight and regret, how different life is here than when I arrived three and a half years ago — delight because things have improved, regret be-



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

cause I'm only able to enjoy the perks for a few more months.

I understand that I run the grave risk of sounding like a doddering senior, muttering on about how things were in the "old days." When I was a freshman, I rolled my eyes every time I heard seniors talk about how good *I* had it. "You should've seen Terrace when *we* ate here," they'd say, upon revisiting that culinary disaster zone for the first time in years. "It's so much better now." Back then, the changes were hard for me to appreciate.

Mine was the first class that had brick walkways. They once were asphalt and gravel. The path from the library to the gym used to be a service road, as did the plaza in front of Levering. Other resour-

ces that seem indispensable — the Mattin Terrace, the Rec Center, the Homewood apartments — are actually quite new. And now that the Charles Street Market is open, the University's student-life-related renovations and construction are practically finished.

The Johns Hopkins I entered as a freshman now seems foreign. So, allow me to indulge in some geezerly reminiscence:

I remember the waffle machines at Terrace, our only refuge from pre-fermented Sodexo gruel. I remember when the Facebook was a *real* book. I remember the pre-carpet days of AMR II, hearing loud moans of probable self-stimulation bouncing down the corridor from twenty rooms away. I remember

when the AMR courtyards were *the* place to be. I remember Hopkins before lock-down, before entry gates, security cameras, and Segways. I remember being accosted by a homeless man outside of Rofo. I remember when any Hopkins student could tell you what "Rofo" stands for (Royal Farms, for the uninitiated). I remember having my first beer of college in a row house that has since been razed and replaced by a Starbucks. I remember using a metal key to enter my building, not a magnetic access card. And most of all, I remember when you absolutely could not buy Maxim magazine with your dining plan.

But hey, times change.

— Joshua Robinson is a senior International Studies major from Potomac, Md.

Carey Polis

Slow going in the Big Easy

It is decidedly eerie to walk into a Marriott and feel like you are the only guest. It gets stranger as almost everywhere you go to dinner, people thank you for your patronage. The conversations you have with the locals are depressing; they bring up Katrina and you can tell that it has never left their minds.

During winter break, I went to New Orleans with my family for a short vacation. Although I enjoyed wandering around the city, there was something that felt wrong about being there. Too many shops were still closed, too many restaurants had just reopened and too many people no longer lived there. It was like visiting a ghost town that still had tourist sites.

The most shocking aspect of the city was not the overall devastation, but rather how it was trying to fight back. There was still music blaring from all the Bourbon Street bars, except that the crowds inside were thin at best. Preservation Hall, the world-famous jazz club, had a long queue of people waiting to get inside, but the locals who walked by kept

remarking about how surprised they were that there actually was a line.

Twice, when we went out to dinner waiters chatted with us about why we decided to come and how over half of the city's population has yet to return. They were doubtful that they ever would. Everywhere we turned, Katrina followed us. On our way to a swamp tour, we saw one closed strip mall after another. On the tour itself, we learned about the effect of the hurricane on the baby alligator population (almost all of them have died). When we went to the concierge, we saw a lot of brochures for "hurricane tours" in which people could follow Katrina's course of devastation. Though I find the idea repugnant, these tours prove that Katrina has left a seemingly permanent mark.

I don't blame the locals for not being able to get Katrina off their minds; it is hard to get over something when there

are signs of it all around you, constantly reminding you of what happened in the past and of what is still occurring.

Perhaps one way to make New Orleans "great" again, my mother suggested, would be an intensive tourism publicity campaign. Once people start coming, there would be something like a trickle-down effect. More guests from out of town means a happier local population, which leads to increased economic prosperity and more money for reconstruction that will attract further visitors. And the cycle continues.

I was skeptical, however. I'm not sure New Orleans is ready to handle such an influx of tourists. There are still too many closed shops, destroyed houses, and general malaise. I fear a more vicious and pessimistic cycle: people are scared to visit because of all the news reports about increased crime and slow efforts at reconstruction, the local popula-

tion is downtrodden and keeps leaving, money never goes where it should be because all the rich people have left and all the poor people don't know what to do, people stop visiting as crime keeps increasing, and reconstruction still seems important, but now urban decay is almost inevitable.

I hope that my dim vision does not become a reality. Either way, what my vision and my mother's have in common is an obvious starting point: money. I don't blame people for not wanting to visit. After all, in the end, our "vacation" ended up feeling more like a bizarre good deed rather than some relaxing time away from home. So, instead, people should stop lamenting New Orleans' depressing fate. Remember New Orleans for what it used to be instead of what it is now. Support the local economy from your home — order online from New Orleans businesses and donate to non-profits still pushing for faster rebuilding. Hope isn't lost for the Big Easy, that is, as long as we don't cast it off as a lost cause.

— Carey Polis is a senior Writing Seminars major from Bethesda, Md.

The value of hand-made

By GRAHAM ELLIS

Traveling back home over break, I was stunned by the contrast I saw between old buildings in downtown Baltimore and the new corporate developments near the city limits. It is curious to see old wooden homes from the 1900s still standing.

I have always been intrigued by the detail and quality of workmanship that was, long ago, invested in everything from architecture to appliances. But I was puzzled watching new restaurants be assembled from particle board in little over a week.

I have often questioned why the quality of our goods today seems to have declined from that of decades past. Quality seems to have been sacrificed for über efficiency in our high-speed culture of planned obsolescence. But I had to question whether there was anything wrong with this. Is there any inherent value to producing things of quality? And so in an attempt to answer my question, I decided to build a piece of furniture the way it used to be done to determine whether I would gain anything other than a place to sit in the process.

With help from an elderly woodwork-

er friend, I settled on plans for a classic Adirondack chair. The chair's ample, contoured arms and seat have made it an iconic addition to many mountain resorts. Following the recommendation of my mentor Bruce, I chose white oak, a durable and widely available hardwood. It is easily worked and was traditionally used in this country for barrels, tubs and buckets.

Woodworking, like most crafts, is a practical science. The foundation of every project is a collection of square wood planks. My first task was to mold the wood to a consistent level using a planer. A planer is a tool that shaves boards to a desired thickness using rotating blades. Wood gives way easily to the efficiency of such power tools. By contrast, after the wood is planed, each piece must be delicately cut from a paper template. Running a jigsaw is not unlike painting along fine lines, only with a powerful stationary blade.

As I cut, I found a sort of childlike excitement in discarding scrap and

watching chair parts stack up, imagining the place each would hold when the puzzle was complete. I achieved an odd intimacy with each piece while hand-sanding everything down to a skin-like softness. Here was a process in which my hand moved over every inch of material, dust filled my lungs and the corners shrank to match the contours of my palm.

By the time we were ready to begin assembly, we were one week in and I was naively anticipating an easy afternoon of screwing the various components together. However, as I soon discovered, every project involves some degree of 'Yankee Ingenuity.' The symmetry required in a piece of furniture demands improvisation, creativity and much frustration.

I spent a fortnight cursing at snapped heads of brass screws and redesigning faulty components. But as the days went on, I began to see something recognizable materializing in my own hands. It was like watching a time-lapse video of

plants sprouting or the seasons changing. The placement of each piece requires both a coarse control and a feminine eloquence. In the end, I viewed the finished product as not only functional but also artistic.

After the last screw was inserted, I enjoyed the sound of boards settling into place as I sat down for the first time. I was left with a complex happiness, the kind that comes from understanding the work that went into forming each piece, where it came from and how it became part of the whole. But the most beautiful part of the project lies in the imperfections that only I will ever notice.

In a small way, I feel that we are able to better appreciate the world around us after understanding what effort goes into the products we use. There is a contentment that comes from using one's hands and mind to create something that may well outlast oneself. And thinking back now, I feel satisfied knowing that perhaps I have learned a skill that our society has all but forgotten.

Graham Ellis is a freshman pre-major from Champaign, IL.

SCIENCE

Red Cross: Eradication of measles is now possible

In the half-century that has passed since the pioneering work of Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine, developed nations have succeeded in wiping out disease after disease from their territories through mass inoculations.

Thanks to substantial resources and routine prevention, the United States does not need to worry about a viral infection like measles.

Countries throughout much of the rest of the world, however, must suffer through the heavy burden of morbidity and mortality inflicted by measles, with more than 30 million people contracting the disease each year, resulting in over 450,000 deaths, mainly among children.

It is hard to fathom that, while many Americans are barely aware of measles, it remains the fifth leading cause of death among children worldwide, taking an especially drastic toll on the youth of sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia.

The tiny, spherical measles virus is extremely contagious and requires only a few contaminated airborne droplets expelled

during coughing or sneezing to begin an epidemic.

Virus-containing droplets remain active and transmissible for up to two hours on whatever surface they touch. Once in the body, the virus attaches to a special receptor in red blood cells, penetrates the membrane and replicates itself before slicing open the cell and repeating the process elsewhere.

The incubation period, which is the time between contraction of the virus and the development of symptoms, may last from eight to 12 days.

Jason Liebowitz Science at Work

After this period, the victim will likely develop a fever, suffer from watery eyes and

a runny nose, and experience a painful rash that travels downward from the face and neck to the rest of the body.

As agonizing as these symptoms may be, it is the complications from measles that wreak the most havoc: blindness, inflammation of the brain, diarrhea and severe respiratory infections such as pneumonia.

Any one of these complications may be fatal if combined with malnutrition or when the immune system is weak, as is often the case in small children and the elderly.

Treatment of measles includes



A child in Togo receives a measles vaccine from an International Red Cross volunteer.

providing sufficient nutrition with vitamins and supplements, as well as avoiding dehydration, which saps people of their strength and further weakens the immune system.

The disease may be manageable through stringent clinical management, but adequate health care is rarely available to indigent populations, who are typically most susceptible to measles. Moreover, the virus is so easily transmitted that those caring for the sick are highly likely to become infected themselves.

The only viable plan for reducing the measles death toll of more than 1,200 people per day is to nip the problem in the bud through immunization.

The measles vaccine is among the safest, most effective and inexpensive prevention methods available. For less than one dollar, a child can be inoculated against measles for the rest of his life.

Additionally, the most commonly used measles vaccine also prevents mumps and rubella, two other deadly childhood infec-

tious diseases. The MMR vaccine is widely available in the United States and has been used successfully around the world.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have combined efforts with the American Red Cross, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and others to support the Measles Initiative.

By raising over \$300 million, the Measles Initiative has vaccinated more than 360 million children in 43 countries across Africa and Asia, and has now begun providing free vaccines in all regions of the world.

The program has even incorporated other preventive care services into the project framework, including the administration of vitamin A, insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent the transmission of malaria, and de-worming medicine for children.

The success of the initiative is largely due to the realization that prevention is an economically intelligent option, given that the cost of universal measles vaccination is minuscule compared to the cost of providing worldwide treatment after the fact.

With this fact in mind, the Hopkins International Services-Red Cross student organization is partnering with the men's lacrosse team and the Hopkins Athletic Department to present the "One Dollar, One Student, One Life" Measles Initiative Campaign.

A series of social and educational events will be made available to the Hopkins community throughout the spring semester to raise awareness about measles. Proceeds will support child vaccinations in developing nations.

The Red Cross will be promoting the opportunity to sponsor lacrosse games. Donors will pledge a given quantity per goal that our Hopkins team scores during a given game.

Collection tables will be set up at student cafeterias and during a number of lacrosse games with the ultimate goal of raising \$4,000 — one dollar for each Hopkins student.

Measles no longer needs to threaten people anywhere in the world. The efforts of those able to help are all it will take to make the disease a relic of the past.

Slippery nanoparticles carry drugs through membranes

By GRACE MALDARELLI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The results of a new study published in the Jan. 30 issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* could lead to new methods of cancer therapy and drug delivery.

Justin Hanes, an associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and colleagues from several Hopkins divisions have determined that specially coated nanoparticles can pass through human mucus membranes more quickly than uncoated nanoparticles.

Nanoparticles are tiny, spherical particles that can be engineered with a variety of properties. For instance, other molecules can be attached to their exteriors, or their hollow interiors can be filled with chemicals.

Nanoparticles are currently used in consumer products, including sunscreen and cosmetics. They also offer an important new avenue of research into drug delivery systems to targeted tissues and cells in the body. This technique is especially promising for cancer chemotherapy.

The nanoparticles used in the study were between 100 and 500 nanometers in diameter. By comparison, a piece of paper is 120,000 nanometers thick. Larger nanoparticles are able to distribute their contents in a more controlled fashion than can smaller particles because they have proportionally greater volume compared to their surface area.

Uncoated nanoparticles were found to have difficulty crossing biological membranes. These particles were significantly more likely to adhere to the membrane or to become trapped within it.

The scientists then coated the particles in polyethylene glycol, an uncharged polymer approved for pharmaceutical use by the FDA. The addition of polyethylene glycol allowed the coated particles to move through mucus membranes much faster than uncoated particles.

To monitor movements of the nanoparticles, the research team used a technique called multiple particle tracking. Real-time, high-resolution videos of the particles

moving through mucus were used to track and analyze their speed and motion.

Further tests determined that comparatively larger particles, on the order of 200 to 500 nanometers in diameter, were more easily able to cross membranes than 100-nanometer particles.

According to Samuel Lai, a chemical and biomolecular engineering graduate student and the lead author of the study, "The well known difficulty of crossing mucus motivated us to concentrate our research efforts on enabling nanoparticle drug delivery systems to traverse this barrier."

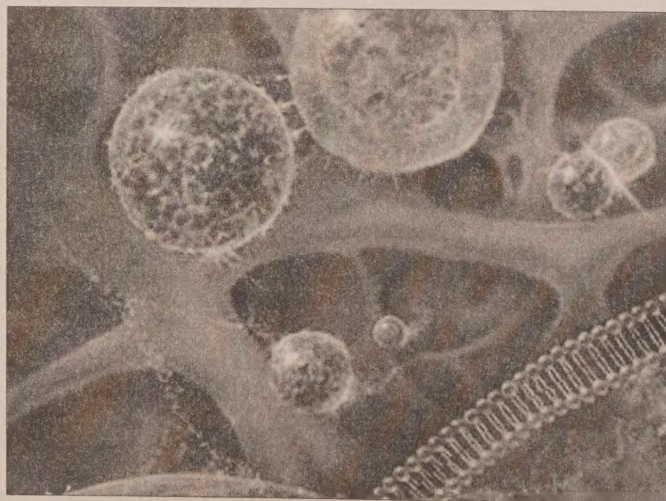
Previous research on mucus-penetrating viruses conducted by Richard Cone, a professor of biophysics, provided the stimulus for the study. "We got the inspiration [for the study] by trying to learn from some viruses that can efficiently penetrate mucus," Lai said.

The finding that large nanoparticles were able to move through undiluted human mucus was surprising to the scientists. Prior studies indicated that mucus pores were between 10 and 200 nanometers in diameter, too small for the 200- and 500-nanometer particles to pass through.

According to Lai, "Our findings challenge the existing dogmas in the field, since we show that drug delivery nanoparticles can efficiently cross mucus, and we show that the mucus mesh pores are significantly larger than previously thought."

There are many possible applications of the study's results, given that the human body contains many mucus membranes, including those in the intestines, cervical-vaginal tract and lungs. Drugs attached to nanoparticles could be absorbed through these membranes, offering an alternative to oral or intravenous drug delivery.

"This technology may help us develop, for example, inhalable particles containing chemotherapeutics or anti-inflammatory drugs for the treatment of lung cancer and lung inflammation, or delivery of antibodies that prevents sexually transmitted diseases," Lai said.



This computer image shows drug-carrying nanoparticles crossing a cellular membrane.

Mt. Washington Home

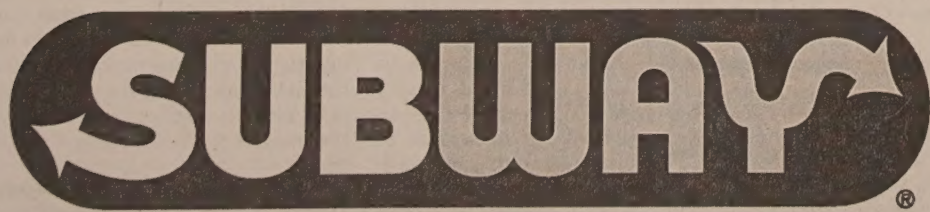
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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Some places to eat food

By JENNY KLEIN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

From Hampden to Mount Vernon, from the Inner Harbor to our very campus, Baltimore offers a wide range of dining options to explore. While it's easy to be frustrated with the lack of restaurants near the Homewood campus, these are some that are really worth trying.

Café Hon, Hampden

This Baltimore landmark is within walking distance from the Homewood campus. Featuring typical diner cuisine in an atypical diner atmosphere, Café Hon was voted "Best Comfort Food" in Baltimore. The friendly wait staff serves old favorites like meatloaf and mashed potatoes, hand-cut fries, burgers, bread pudding and homemade desserts. Café Hon also has a gift shop and celebrates Hon Fest annually in June. It is located at 1002 W. 36th Street.

<http://www.cafehon.com>

Ixia, Mount Vernon

Ixia is a trendy new restaurant, lounge and bar in the Baltimore area. It offers a fusion of American, Pacific Rim and Mediterranean cuisines. Ixia is named after a flower that is native to South Africa, and is a restaurant that you would likelier see in New York City than in Baltimore. Ixia offers a very different atmosphere than



most restaurants in Baltimore. Ixia was Zagat rated and received an Extraordinary. Their eclectic menu includes such dishes as an appetizer of Butternut Squash Gnocchi Brulee, Lobster Crusted Monkfish entrée and Pecan Toffee Cheesecake for dessert. It is located at 518 N. Charles St.

<http://www.ixia-online.com>

M&S Grill, Inner Harbor

M&S Grill is a more relaxed version of their parent restaurant, McCormick and Schmick, which is also located in the Inner Harbor. M&S Grill has a homier atmosphere. It is one of the many amazing seafood restaurants located in the city, though they also feature steaks, sandwiches and pasta dishes, making for a more eclectic

menu. It's not cheap, so you might want to wait until Parents' Weekend for this one. It is located at 1006 Harborplace, 201 E. Pratt St.

<http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com>

Paper Moon Diner

Paper Moon Diner, which is owned by the same owner as Ixia, is an arty 24-hour Diner where students can fix their late night hunger, at least until Uni-Mini reopens. Menu items include the "Moon Burger" (blue cheese and bacon), the "Weed Burger" (turkey burger), fried chicken, sandwiches, pancakes and other breakfast items, and various pies and cakes. It is located at 227 W. 29th St.

<http://www.papermoondiner24.com>

By SHIRAZ RAHIM
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

"What classes should I take next semester?" That's probably the most frequently asked question at Hopkins, especially with a campus absolutely packed with picky pre-meds who worry that med schools might reject them because they chose 16th Century British Literature over genetics. So here are a few pointers on the hottest classes to fill up your credit limit (or make you want to run to get a credit overload):

Imagining Love in 20th Century American Literature (362.340): Here's a class that will leave you feeling the love tonight. The course examines how African American writers used the concept of love to define a self. And here's a plus: It's a W credit!

Partial Differential Equations for Applications (110.417): Are you one of those kids who didn't think math had any applications? Well, here's a class that will prove you wrong (because it has the words 'for Applications' in it!). Here you'll study the exciting world of Poisson's solution (I have no clue what this means, but I know *poisson* means fish in French, if that helps?) and classification of "well-posed problems" (a rarity in math). The only problem: You have to brave a dreaded Calc 3 course to get to it.

Medical Imaging Systems (520.432): I picked this because it's the most pre-med sounding class I could find. It deals with the tech-

niques of ultrasound, MRI and x-ray imaging machines. Reason for taking it: The word "medical" is in the title.

Mail Order Brides. Understanding The Philippines in Southeast Asian Context (070.386): With a W credit, this course has absolutely no description, but a class that deals with mail order brides and similar aspects of South Asia has got to be good!

Introduction to Nuclear and Particle Physics (171.408): Here's a course for all you guys trying to get some science-y knowledge that you can drop in a conversation with the ladies. You'll learn about nuclear scattering, radioactivity, pions and muons, all things that will definitely earn you points in the dating world.

Introduction to Middle Egyptian Hieroglyphs (133.601): Yeah, it's a graduate class, but it's hieroglyphs! Not only will it be fun to draw, but you'll learn something that almost no one else knows, which means you can have fun writing secret notes to other people you drag into the class.

Gangster Films (061.328): Here's the ultimate class! You get to watch good, wholesome gangster movies twice a week and learn how to be gangsta, yo.

Introduction to Fiction and Poetry Writing I (220.105): The

most popular writing intensive class is still available next semester for all you students just dying to get your W credits over with. Along with reading some famous poetry and prose writing, you get to practice your own by writing short stories and poetry and letting everyone in the class read them! At least if you don't like writing yourself, you get the fun of reading what's on the minds of all your peers (and usually it's either hilarious or gross).

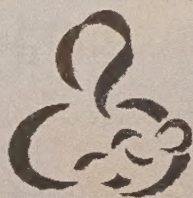
Biology in Film (020.125): Here's another class that is highly acclaimed for being fun and slacker-ish. Students are expected to attend screenings of hit Hollywood films like *Blade Runner* and *Gattaca* to build a personal connection to the subject of biology. You'll learn all about infectious diseases, genetic engineering, human cloning and biomedical discoveries, all by watching Hollywood's acclaimed blockbusters (because they're very factual when it comes to science).

Organic Chemistry 2 (030.206): Test to see if the rumors about this dreaded pre-med requirement are true by experiencing the joys of spectroscopy, aldehyde reactions and synthesis reactions for ketones! It might be a drag on your social life, but you didn't come to Hopkins to make friends.

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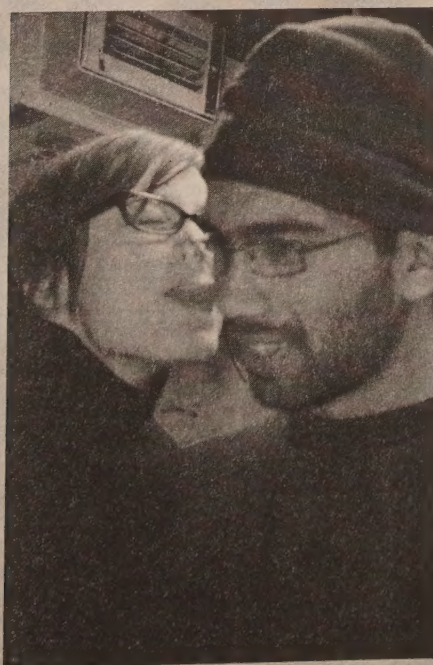
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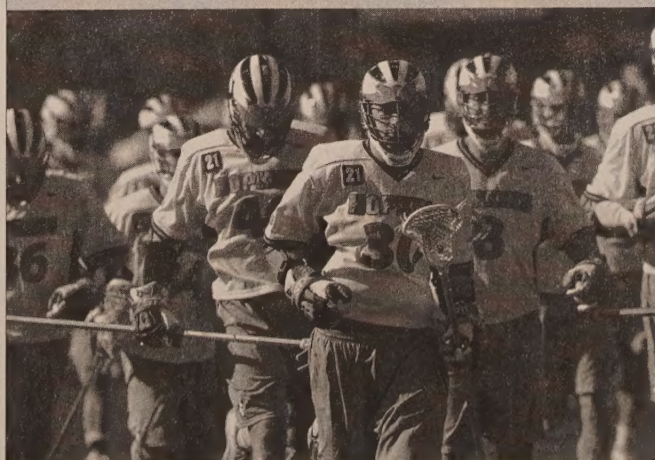
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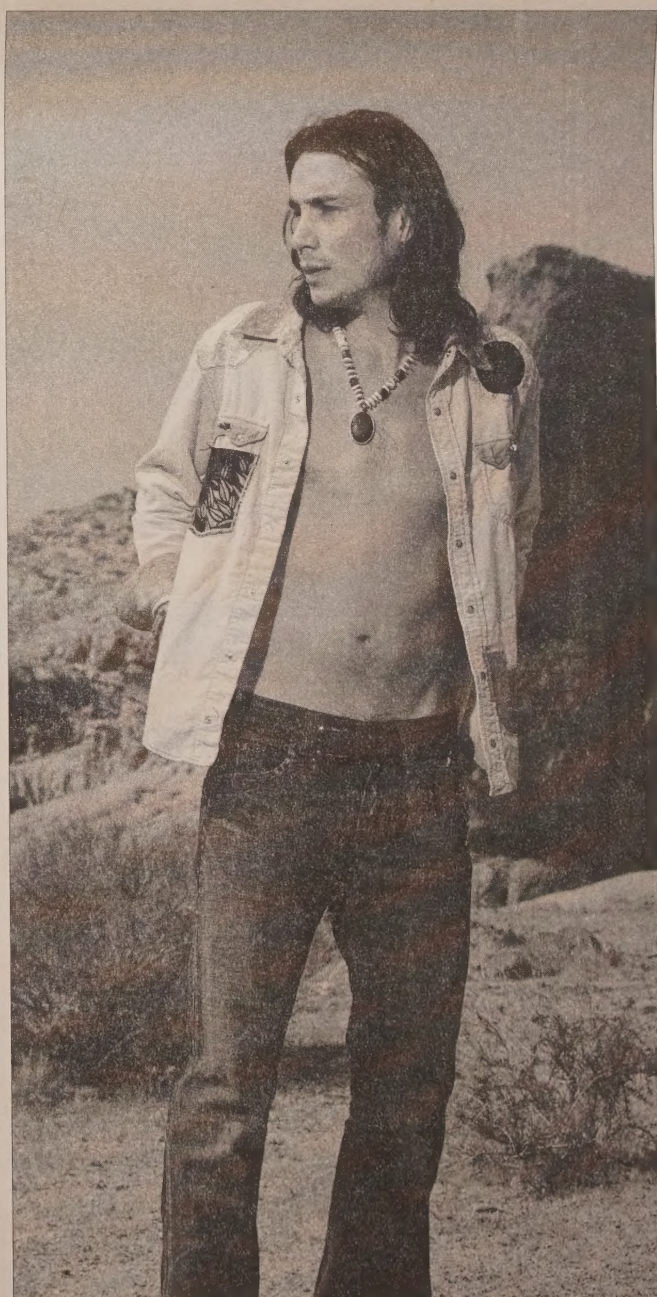
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SPORTS

W. Basketball brutalizes Haverford by 30 points

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
Although the score may reflect a 30-point lead and a game that was not in doubt, Haverford was resilient and stuck around for quite some time, even into half-time, when Hopkins held only a 27-23 lead. Once the second half started, the Lady Jays did not waste a single minute as they pounced right away. The team caught fire both offensively and defensively, scoring 41 points and limiting the Fords to 15 in what was one of the most lop-sided halves Hopkins has been a part of this season.

One of the big keys for Hopkins was the play of its two starting forwards. Sophomore Kristin Phillips had 18 points and nine rebounds in only 21 minutes of play, and Dodrill added 14 points and nine rebounds for the team.

Phillips, in particular, has been a valuable player for the Lady Jays of late, as she averaged a double-double last week. She was named Co-Centennial Player of the Week for her recent efforts.

Nonetheless, as impressive as the play of both Phillips and Dodrill was, the story of the game was all about the transition between the first and second halves, when Haverford was only two shots from taking the lead.

"We really came out strong in the second half," sophomore guard Steph Kielb said. "We knew that we needed to stop Haverford, [since] they can be dangerous if you get in a close game with them."

Equally important, the second half showed a great deal of improvement on both the offensive and defensive sides

of the ball, as Hopkins was able to turn good defense into even better offense.

"We have been really working on executing our offense and playing together as a team," Kielb said. "But we played solid defense, getting stops, and then putting the ball in the basket on the other end of the floor [off of those turnovers]."

"We're starting to look for each other and taking high percent shots," freshman guard Britni Lonesome said. We're getting more fast breaks off of turnovers, and we're really keeping our eyes out [for each other]."

The Lady Jays have begun to demonstrate that no matter whom they play, they should never be counted out of a game. More importantly, though, this recent stretch demonstrated a newfound ability to win games on the road, which had been a major challenge earlier in the year. On the team's just-completed four-game road trip, which included the victory over Haverford, Hopkins won all but one of them and did so by very convincing margins. The one loss came at Dickinson, which is in third place in the Centennial Conference Standings and has lost only one game on its home court this season.

Another loss in any of its three remaining games could drop Hopkins as low as sixth place in the standings, and the players realize that every minute matters. After the McDaniel loss, this is something none of the Lady Jays are about to forget as the sun on the regular season sets in rapidly.



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER
Senior guard Haley Wojdowski had four points and six boards in the McDaniel loss.

No double dips: Fords can't top Jays twice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
were unable to beat the Hopkins pressure defense.

"Morley and (junior forward) Kevin Roach keyed our defense," Nelson said. "They were able to lead us on that 14-0 run."

Senior forward Matt Griffin was the Jays' offensive force, scoring 21 points on 7-12 shooting from the field. Senior guard TJ Valerio chipped in with 10 points. The Jays struggled from the three-point range, shooting just 1-13 from beyond the arc. Hopkins usually relies on the three as an important part of their offense, so if any opponent makes an upset run, a Hopkins team that struggles with outside shooting will be very susceptible.

In a rematch against the only conference team to beat them this season, the Blue Jays traveled to Haverford on Saturday. Once again, the Ford gave the Jays all they could handle, using good defense and a well-balanced offense to take the game down to the wire. The Jays again faced a deficit at halftime, trailing by six. But Hopkins fought back and was able to force overtime.

"We have been a second-

half team," Valerio said. "It just seems to take us a while to get in a groove. We stay even with these teams, then we find the right time and pull ahead. Other teams just can't stay with us for 40 minutes."

The Jays needed an extra 10 minutes to pull away from the Fords. The teams went back and forth in the first overtime before going scoreless in the final 40 seconds. In the second overtime, Hopkins got six points from Griffin, four from junior guard Doug Polster and three from Morley to secure the victory.

"Haverford is a good team," Valerio said of his team's struggles against the Fords. "They bump us, and make it very difficult for us to get into our offensive sets. We play them and always have to work harder to get our shots."

For Nelson and the Blue Jays, their two games in the past week were hopefully aberrations on what as otherwise been a very solid past few weeks. Playing from behind will certainly catch up to Hopkins, and with their lead over Ursinus at only one game in the Centennial Conference, the Jays can't afford any disappointments

down the stretch.

"We can't afford a letdown," Nelson said. "Especially with Ursinus right there, every game is important."

The Jays continue their conference season next week. After a game on Wednesday against McDaniel, the Blue Jays host Ursinus on Saturday at 4 p.m. before traveling to Gettysburg next Wednesday.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Senior forward Chris Morley makes good on his dribble-drive against Gettysburg.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK KRISTIN PHILLIPS, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Phillips overcomes injury to succeed

By DEMIAN KENDALL
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Any team that steps foot in Goldfarb Gymnasium knows that they'll need to sink their shots, because just about any ball that bounces off the rim is likely to land in the hands of sophomore forward Kristin Phillips.

Phillips, who played in 25 games last season, totaled 101 rebounds and 81 points in her first year as a D-III athlete. Her full potential was not reached, however, as she missed the final five games of her freshman campaign due to injury. Forced to watch her team complete the season without her, she made a vow to devote the off-season to getting back in health and back on the court.

She committed herself to her team in many ways: playing pick-up games, hitting the weight room and running almost every day. Her goals in sight, she returned to the court revitalized. From the get-go of the inaugural game of the Mike Durgala Memorial Tournament, it was evident that Phillips planned on coming back strong.

According to Phillips, the second game of that tournament against Moravian was the best she's played so far. "As a whole, we played well together," Phillips said. "I had more confidence out there, and felt much more comfortable." Phillips fought alongside her teammates to win the tournament, but that was only the beginning.

Phillips has since led her team to 10 more wins since the tournament. Now at the 20-game mark, she has shattered her personal rebound record, tallying 155 thus far. Phillips has also more than doubled last season's points total with 168. She is currently fourth on the team in both categories. "My style's not traditional," Phillips said. "I shoot from the outside a lot but rebounding is the biggest part of my game."

Despite her success this season, Kristin Phillips is as humble as they come. "It's hard to talk about myself," Phillips said. When asked about her accomplishments, Phillips more often than not found herself speaking of her teammates and their un-failing support.

"[My team] always gives me support, and we're all friends on and off the court," Phillips said. "We always have fun out there, and I couldn't have accomplished anything I've done without them."

Kristin's teammates were just as quick to praise their friend.

"Part of what I think makes Kristin so valuable to our team is how she doesn't give up," sophomore guard/forward Jenna Berninger said. "She's a person that we can ask almost anything of,

whether we need more rebounding, points in the paint, or a three — and she usually comes through."

"She is such a tremendous player and represents a true leader," senior guard Whitney Davis said. "She is by far one of the most talented players I have played with and her awesome work ethic really stands out."

Even the first year players are taking notice of the daily diligence and infectious character of such an exemplary athlete.

"She is extremely hard-working day in and day out, but [also] has this great ability to keep the atmosphere at practice light and make everybody laugh," freshman guard Katie Biggart said. "She has definitely made my experience on the basketball team a positive one."

Kristin lives in Wilmington, Del., where she played high school ball for Tower Hill High School. Only an hour-and-a-half away from home, Kristin has at least one family member in the stands, cheering her on at every game. "Family is very important to me," Phillips said. "They always give me a lot of support, whatever I do."

Off the court Phillips is majoring in International Studies and is a member of the National Collegiate Scholars, a prestigious organization that requires members to maintain a 3.5 or higher overall grade point average.

Kristin Phillips and the Blue



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Jays are looking to avenge a previous loss against Ursinus at home this Saturday. At the tail end of their season, the team has two more Conference home games against Ursinus and Gettysburg and an away game at Franklin and Marshall before the Centennial Conference Championship on Feb. 21.

When that ball floats toward the hoop, keep an eye out for Kristin Phillips, soaring above the frenzy to grab it and lead her teammates and friends to victory.

VITAL STATISTICS

Year:	Sophomore
Major:	Int'l Studies
Position:	Forward

Hopkins Highlights:
155 rebounds for the 2006-07 season, Conference Co-Player of the Week

Super ruminations on a lackluster bowl

What a mess! The "super soaked" Super Bowl turned out to be quite the catastrophe this year in soggy Miami as the Colts and the Bears got together and decided it would be entertaining for us all to watch a game of wet, wild fumblerooskie. The first half alone featured six turnovers, causing most people to head to their toilets, dizzied by the topsy-turvy changes in possession. (Honestly, it's hard to believe that the Chicago quarterback was the only person "chucking" it up on Sunday.)

Hopefully by now most football fans have their stomachs stabilized and their heads set straight, because this all-encompassing review of the Colts' 29-17 victory in XLI may bring back some of those queasy feelings.

1) So why wasn't Rex Grossman named MVP of the Super Bowl? Good question. Sexy Rexy didn't look too hot while botching three snaps, lofting two interceptions (one of which was returned for a touchdown), and coughing the ball up once. Nonetheless, scholars maintain that you have to wear the same jersey as the winning team in order to have a legitimate shot at the Pete Rozelle Trophy.

But don't tell that to former Dallas Linebacker Chuck Howley. Ironically enough, the defenseman, drafted by the Bears, intercepted two passes and recovered a fumble in the Cowboys' Super Bowl V 16-13 loss to the Baltimore Colts.

2) Surprisingly, a fair majority of the professional football oracles/writers chose Chicago as the gut-felt favorite to come out on top on Super Sunday even though the odds-makers in Vegas suggested Indy would win by seven.

Yet, as many a sage has said, hindsight is 20/20: The AFC (that's the Colts' conference) went 40-24

against the NFC this past regular season, good for a .625 winning percentage.

Alas, we should have seen this wallop coming!

3) If they ever did a sequel to the '80s cult classic *Trading Places*, the basic plot of XLI would have to be seriously considered for the second movie. Of course, halfbacks Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes would have to split Eddie Murphy's role. But hey, they're used to sharing the load ever since "The Edge" left town.

The lauded Bears' D — one



Matthew E. Murray Ruffled Feathers

that kept rushing offenses to 99.4 yards per game — was bowled over for 191 yards by Indy's ground attack while looking as if they had forgotten how to tackle. Meanwhile, the slighted Colts' defensive unit — guilty of allowing an average of 173 rushing yards in contests this season — kept Thomas Jones and company in check by limiting Chicago to 111.

4) Granted, the game wasn't as exciting as the Animal Planet's *Puppy Bowl*. (The performance of 12-week old Boston Terrier Milo has to go down in the history books as one of the best.) The half-time show, however, did provide some oohs and aahs — those emanating from none other than the holy crooner Prince. The artist, known (or is it formerly known?) for his flamboyant style and overly gelled hair, sounded

great on "Purple Rain" and even better on "Let's Go Crazy." The big stage fit his personality well, the marching band was a nice touch, and the fireworks weren't too obnoxious.

That being said, someone should have persuaded the king's first son to lay off the Foo Fighters and replace it with a goodbye "Kiss."

5) The ads, which this year cost 2.6 million George Washingtons for every 30 seconds of airtime, were a huge disappointment. Given that the Super Bowl commercials almost annually taste a bit stale, 2007 was no different. Talking lions, male make-out sessions, Jay-Z beating Don Shula in simulation football — what in the world of advertising was going on during television time outs?

You truly have to wonder what some of these companies are thinking. The primary General Motors advertisement was about the suicide of a robot. (This, understandably, was meant to convey that GM is all about quality.) The sole Nationwide Insure commercial was "po-po-zaoed" by the image of American idiot Kevin Federline (the purpose of this ad is and will remain unknown). Lastly, the E-Trade anomaly not only frightened me because of the wide variety of animal masks being worn but also because for a short time, I equated e-trading with robbing a bank. (That's good for business, right?)

6) Finally, the entire hubbub about Peyton Manning not being a great quarterback can come to a long overdue close.

In exchange for a congratulatory pat on the back, Mr. Manning, I would like to request on behalf of all mankind that you remove your overexposed self from my sight.

Because frankly, it's making me feel sick again. Where's the commode?

SPORTS

Track teams place third at Frank Colden Invitational

By EILEEN LILLY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins' track and field ran to a third-place finish at the Frank Colden Invitational this past week. Competing against 20 teams, the Blue Jays continually placed well and consistently grabbed points throughout the meet.

The women's track and field squad finished first out of all the Division III schools and third overall at the Invitational. Freshman Laura Paulsen flew by the competition in the 800 meter run finishing with an impressive time of 2:20.90 and was joined in the top 5 by fellow freshman Mary O'Grady who finished fifth.

Sophomore Jordan Ireton achieved a second-place finish in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.08 as she barely edged Temple University's Cheryl Anscombe at the line. Anscombe's official time was one hundredth of a second after Jordan's.

Ireton, a standout from last year's team, expressed her discouragement with the confinement of the indoor season.

"It is really difficult to be in prime shape during the winter and running on the smaller-sized indoor tracks," Ireton said. "So needless to say, we have been doing our best to get into race shape thus far, and I believe that this weekend was really a high point in our indoor season."

In the one-mile run, sophomore Rachel Hogan garnered a fourth-place finish with a time of 5:23.77. In the longest event of the meet, sophomore Emma Hiza stayed focused until she reached the finish line of the 10K. Her stamina paid dividends as she hung onto a fourth-place finish, 0.61 seconds ahead of rival Haverford's Lena Edelstein.

The women's team picked up some much-needed points with some speed in the relays. Third- and fourth-place finishes in the 4 x 200- and 4 x 400-meter relays were achieved by the Lady Jays.

Additionally of note, junior Jessica Reeves showed off her specialty at the meet, placing fourth in the pole vault.

With 59 points, Hopkins overcame Centennial Conference counterpart Gettysburg College by 15.5 points but lost to Towson University and Temple who finished with 165 and 83 points respectively.

The women were not the only Hopkins runners succeeding at the meet as the men also finished in third place overall. The first Hopkins points came from freshman James Walker in the 200 meters. Walker came in fourth with a time of 23.59. Freshman Graham Belton was found to be seventh in the one-mile run, with a time of 4:33.39, running the last 200 meters in an impressive 29 seconds.

In the 1000, freshman Noah Jampol and junior James Bronson picked up four more points for their combined efforts as they finished sixth and seventh respectively. In the 55-meter hurdles, senior Jason Dubyoski showed off his jumping skills as he finished second with a time of 8.13.

Additionally, Hopkins placed second in the 4 x 800-meter relay. Junior Jason Hortiat, senior Phil Aiken, freshman Gordon Mack and junior Jeff Neal combined to run the race in 8:26.68.

In the field, senior Matt Smith picked up two points by jumping 1.73 meters in the high jump for seventh place. Sophomore Matt Trachtenberg tied for fourth place in the pole vault at 4.25 meters and simultaneously qualified for the ECACs in the pole vault.

Hopkins' next event is in Boston on Feb. 9 for the St. Valentine Invitational. Senior Jason Chiang was excited about the opportunity for him and his teammates to make the trip.

"The track [in Boston] is one of the best in the world and we are looking for some really fast times," Chiang said. "We're all looking to get the ECAC qualifying time."

No offseason for hardworking lacrosse team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

Strength and Conditioning Coach Jay Dyer has also played an integral part, creating special workouts to get the team ready and keep them in good health for the three-month-long season.

"[The workouts] included running and lifting portions to be performed four days a week," Jaffe said.

For all their hard work so far, the guys were appropriately rewarded. During their practice last Friday, Head Coach Bill Belichick of the New England Patriots paid the team a surprise visit.

Belichick is one of the winningest coaches in NFL history, the only coach to lead a team to three Super Bowl wins in a period of four years.

What many may not know is that Belichick was raised in Annapolis and that he and his son are avid lacrosse followers, with a special fondness for the Jays.

"He played [lacrosse] while growing up, and remembers the many Hopkins Lacrosse games that he attended," Jaffe said.

"When he was speaking to us, it wasn't just some guy talking about a sport he had never seen before. He obviously knew the game, and knew it pretty well," O'Neill added.

Pietramala and Belichick, both proven leaders of in their respective sports, became friends over the past year. They have stayed connected by sending e-mails on a weekly basis. Pietramala and the assistant coaches even traveled to Foxborough, Mass. and watched a few of the Patriots' practices during the lacrosse off-season.

Belichick returned the favor on Friday, observing the Hopkins lacrosse team for the duration of the day's practice, and even took part in some drills.

After the practice, Belichick gave a brief locker-room pep talk, giving his thoughts on what he saw from the guys on the field.

"He emphasized the use of the pre-season to improve weaknesses rather than to just using it to cross



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Then-sophomore attacker Tom Duerr, leading candidate for a starting role in 2007, drives toward the goal during an '06 match.

days off of the calendar until games began," Jaffe said.

Belichick also touched on several major teamwork components that he normally emphasizes with the Patriots.

"He pointed out a couple of things, like playing confidently and also how important it is to remember that the decisions you make as an individual will affect the team as a whole," senior long-stick midfielder Brendan Skakandi said.

"It was a very humbling experience meeting and having small talk with a man of his stature and prominence," O'Neill said. "His message was clear and got across to all of us. It was a great experience that every player in the locker room will remember for the rest of their lives."

The guys will hopefully use Belichick's motivational words as inspiration to return to their glory

days of reigning as the best in the nation. At the moment, the team is focused on their first scrimmage, this weekend against Penn State.

The team's first regular season game will be at home against Albany on Feb. 24. All the players and coaches have high hopes and expectations for the year despite a schedule that's tougher than those at many of the other

competing schools.

"The challenges we face with such a hard schedule will definitely make us a better team later on in the season," Skakandi said.

"It is an exciting time of year for everyone involved in our program," Benson said. "We look forward to the 2007 season."

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SPORTS

You Gotta See This!

In case you've been under a rock for the last 20 years, there has been an upward trend of high school athletes becoming household names. The latest addition to this group is John Curtis Christian product Joe McKnight
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P2aKx2STY>

CALENDAR

SATURDAY
 W. Basketball vs. Ursinus 2 p.m.
 M. Basketball vs. Ursinus 4 p.m.
 TUESDAY
 W. Basketball vs. Gettysburg, 7 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY
 M. Basketball vs. Gettysburg, 7:30 p.m.

Lacrosse gets a visit from Patriots coach Belichick

The men's lax team doesn't just sip hot cocoa during winter

By ALEXANDER IP

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The eight-time NCAA Champion men's lacrosse team walked away last season with a less-than-satisfying 9-5 record, finishing with a heartbreaking loss to Syracuse in the quarterfinals round of the NCAA Championship Tournament.

Recognized as a perennial Division I powerhouse, the Blue Jays have made 35 straight postseason tournament appearances and are definitely hungry to bring home the national title this year.

"The way last year ended up left a bad taste in our mouths," junior long-stick midfielder Val Washington said. "We all feel a sense of urgency in bettering ourselves as individual players, as well as a team."

The wins will not come easily this spring as most of the team is made up of underclassmen. But so far the players have transformed that pressure to succeed into determination. During their fall play this pre-season, the guys defeated Binghamton, Rutgers and Ohio State, which definitely allowed the team to regain some of their confidence and helped them get a good sense of what still needs improvement.

Before the end of the fall semester, the team routinely participated in a combination of team practices and individual practices which featured one coach working with six to eight players.

"[Head] Coach [Dave] Pietramala has changed around the practice schedule a little bit this year as opposed to last year by involving more players in every drill, changing the routine of practice, and allowing players to get up and down the field more," junior defender Ben O'Neill said. "As a result, the practices have been much more enjoyable and competitive."

With a team goal of at least returning to the NCAA Final Four, the guys took an abbreviated winter break, returning to campus on Jan. 14. Since then, the team has been practicing for as

long as three hours at a time for six days a week to get into form for the regular season.

"Everyone on the team is working to maintain the fundamental lacrosse skills of passing, catching and shooting," sophomore midfielder Andrew Jaffe said.

"Our guys have been anxiously preparing for the season all winter long. Throughout the holidays, they took workouts home with them to stay focused," Assistant Coach Bobby Benson said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Lady Jays shoot 31 percent as McDaniel prevails

By MIKE GLENWICK

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Earlier in the season, it was hard to tell what exactly the current Hopkins women's basketball team was all about. But after a successful stretch in which the Lady Jays have won the vast majority of their recent games, the standings and the team's chances at making the Centennial Conference tournament are looking a whole heck of a lot brighter.

On Tuesday night, however, those lights dimmed a bit as Hopkins lost to the McDaniel Green Terror, 56-50, in its first home

game in more than two weeks. The loss places the Lady Jays in a three-way tie for fourth place in the conference, with a 10-5 record (12-8 overall).

The game was closely contested until the final seconds, with first-place McDaniel maintaining a dwindling lead toward the final minutes of the second half. McDaniel, ranked 25th nationally, handled both Hopkins' tough pressure and a tough home crowd, making almost all of its free throws down the stretch.

The Lady Jays, meanwhile, struggled against an aggressive McDaniel defense, which had an extra incentive — Hopkins was the only team in the conference to topple the Green Terror on the road in the month of December.

The lone bright spot for Hopkins was the play of junior forward Andrea Dodrill, who scored 17 points in the losing effort. Dodrill also pulled down 12 rebounds, seven of which were defensive.

Outside of Dodrill's performance, the Lady Jays shot a meager 19 percent from the field, completing nine of their other 47 shots from the field.

Senior guard Whitney Davis



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Senior forward Julie Miller skies towards the hoop during a six-point defeat to nemesis McDaniel.

was ice cold, missing all 12 of her attempts.

In addition to the team's shooting woes, Hopkins committed 22 turnovers, had only five assists and committed 25 fouls, 15 of which came in the second half. Captain senior forward Julie Miller, who has been one of the team's most dependable players, fouled out and

played only 19 minutes in the loss.

On Saturday, the Lady Jays were on the road against the Haverford Fords, which has been one of the bottom-dwellers in the Centennial Conference this season. Hopkins handled Haverford fairly easily, winning 68-38.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10

M. Basketball has to fight for this week's pair of victories

By JOHN MONAGAN

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

For the men's basketball team, what has been a record-setting season is becoming increasingly worrisome as the Centennial Conference season winds down. The Blue Jays barely survived two closely contested road games in this past week, beating Swarthmore 63-59 last Wednesday and winning in double overtime against Haverford 72-68 to improve their record to 13-1 in conference and 19-2 overall. They've gained a reputation as a second-half team, although that kind of recognition is not something Head Coach Bill Nelson likes.

"We've been behind at half nine times this season and won eight of them," Nelson said. "We need to play hard in both halves. This is the kind of thing that will haunt us if we can't change it."

With a team goal of at least returning to the NCAA Final Four, the guys took an abbreviated winter break, returning to campus on Jan. 14. Since then, the team has been practicing for as

The Blue Jays trailed by 10 at halftime at Swarthmore, even facing a double-digit margin deep into the second half. Hopkins used stifling defense, keyed by senior forward Chris Morley, to end the game on a 14-0 run over the final minutes. The Blue Jays trailed 59-49, with 3:26 remaining in the game after a Swarthmore free throw. But that would be the last point of the game for the Garnet, who

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Sophomore guard Colin Kamm shoots against GU.

INSIDE

Both track teams finish third at Colden Invite

Sophomore Matt Trachtenberg qualified for the ECACs in the pole vault and freshman Laura Paulsen scorched the field in the 800 meter run as the two track teams placed third. Page A11.

Ruffled Feathers: Super Bowl shenanigans

From Prince's "Purple Rain" to Rex Grossman's dead arm and including those awful adverts, columnist Matthew Murray reflects on the super and sickening parts of last Sunday. Page A10.

Athlete of the Week: Phillips does it all

She snatches boards. She scores points. She saves the world. Okay, we admit it, we're not sure about that last one. Either way, our Athlete of the Week is sophomore Kristin Phillips. Page A10.

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THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

Focus • Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons • Photo Essay

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

An Evening with the



America's most famous bad-ass mothertrucker (watch your mouth!), the legendary **Isaac Hayes**, recently graced the stage at **Ram's Head Live!** Best known for his epic blaxploitation soundtracks and his starring role on the hit TV show *South Park*, check out what our reviewer had to say about the King of Smooth. **ARTS, B6.**



The Magic of Chinese New Year



Last Saturday the Bunting-Meyerhoff Symphony Hall hosted the Baltimore-DC regional Chinese New Year Celebration, **ARTS B6.**

INSIDE B SECTION



Focus

• This week we're filling your lungs with second-hand info in our **Smoking Focus, B2.**

FEATURES

• Do a little time-traveling with **This Week in Hopkins History**, featuring all sorts of zany facts, **B8.**

CALENDAR

• Get the scoop on who's coming to town this week, such as bands **Yo La Tengo, B11.**

SMOKING FOCUS

The cigs are alright

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

I used to be able to eat Twinkies everywhere. Standing in the bus station, at a restaurant, at a bar, wherever, I could just peel open that wrapper and enjoy my perpetually (and eerily) moist delight. But now the anti-Twinkie agenda is just too powerful. I can barely open up a Twinkie outside without getting dirty looks from people.

And indoors, forget about it. No way, not a chance. It's like I'm a second-class citizen. Last I checked, it was legal and easy to walk into a store and buy a Twinkie, so why should it be so much more difficult to enjoy one? I'm being stripped of my rights.

Okay, I admit it: I'm not really talking about Twinkies. I'm really talking about smoking. The parallel isn't quite dead on, but it's there.

Sure, smoking can be more obnoxious and bothersome to

want my business to succeed, so I'm going to do whatever I think is best for it.

That may include allowing smoking, maybe in its own section, maybe in the whole restaurant. I should be able to make that choice, just like it is a potential customer's choice whether he wants to patronize a restaurant that allows smoking. It is likewise a potential employee's choice whether she wants to apply to such a place.

We weigh factors when applying for a job, such as pay,

all sorts of we're applying for jobs — proximity, hours, quantity of windows, availability of soda machines, access to Super V-Force MurderBots. Why shouldn't exposure to smoke be one of those factors? The choice should be up me.

I'll go one further. Let's go with the smoking ban premise. So I agree, no employee should ever be exposed to evil, demon smoke. I suppose, then, that no one should be exposed to potentially harmful substances in the workplace. I guess coal mining should be outright illegal. I bet farming is no good either. Pesticides, you know? How about nuclear power plants? Infectious disease research? Traffic cop at a busy intersection? Poison effectiveness tester?

There are plenty of jobs where exposure to harmful stuff is just part of the gig. But we've chosen smoking as the evil one because public opinion is against it right now. There are reasons: It smells, it's not good for us, it doesn't have any practical purpose, it makes our fingers yellow and some people make fish mouths when they're about to take a drag off a cigarette.

But when we give lawmakers carte blanche to legislate against things that annoy us, we're opening a can of worms more harmful than any pack of cigarettes.

There's now a trans fat ban in all New York City restaurants. I don't consider that as egregious as a smoking ban, since no one ever has access to an ingredients list when we're eating at a restaurant so we can't make an informed decision about what we're eating, but I can see the slope getting slipperier.

The smoking ban, though, is completely unfounded. We all know that cigarettes are bad for us, so we can make the choice whether to expose ourselves to them.

And guess what? We do a lot of things that are bad for us. We enjoy them. And we also enjoy the freedom of being able to make the choice whether to do them. Next time I go out to eat in New York or Baltimore or anywhere, I want to be able to light up a cigarette. I like a good smoke after my Twinkie.



MUKSIT JAMIL/NEWS-LETTER
Tevukazu Morikawa enjoys a cigarette outside, but some state laws are cracking down on public smoking.

Snuffing out smoking

By ADI ELBAZ
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

So, you want to hear something disgusting?

I was dutifully sorting laundry in the Wolman basement several nights ago when I was assaulted with the latest evidence for my already well-established opinion that tobacco is indeed whacko. Stoned on Wilco and a mystifying lack of homework, I was about to tip my monochromatic laundry into the nearest available machine when I noticed that it was littered with cigarette debris. I'm not talking one demure cigarette peeking out coyly from behind the agitator, secreted and forgotten in the linty depths of a jeans pocket along with tissues, pennies and the stray Pokemon card. This was a massacre: an entire pack of eviscerated cigs, their grainy tobacco guts strewn appealingly across the shiny bottom of a now off-limits washer. Some absentminded smoker is out \$4.50 and his daily dose of carcinogens, and I had to find a washer even further from the dryers.

In case you're getting the wrong impression, I'm not your average walking estrogen overdose constantly searching over the rims of her overpriced aviator shades for a reason to whine. It wasn't the awkward schlep from washer to dryer, wet frayed jeans and grandpa thermals on full display that pissed me off so much as the carelessness with which we treat our bodies.

Maybe I should be thankful that smoking isn't among my vices or temptations; instead, I react to smokers' committed self-destruction with fiery impatience. The "sophisticated appetite for self ruin" (Jeffrey Eugenides) is a fancy manifestation of grandstanding narcissism; reasons for smoking vary, but as a concertedly poetic act of "glamorous" self-destruction, showcasing your addictions ranks just below posting your suicidal poetry on Myspace.

Despite the widespread athleticism and fitness-consciousness of our campus,

enough students smoke for it to be really annoying.

The small congregations around quads or building entrances conducting ash-and-butane flirtations, exhaling coquettishly sideways and flicking stray ash onto the sidewalk, are less a model of dissipated Eurotrash cool than advertisements for early-onset emphysema (and cliché! Smoking as foreplay has been best exemplified in popular musical *Rent*; "Got a light?" is pretty much up there with "Nice shoes, my place or yours?"). It's become necessary to purposefully circumvent the clot of smoking students outside my dorm exhaling vile nimbi of m e -

phitic smoke like they're conspiring against my determinedly translucent lungs. I'm not going to spout statistics like some above-the-influence™ poster child for zombified pubescence and "intelligent choices;" by now we (should) get it that smoking hurts both the smoker and unfortunate bystanders.

Simply put, smokers are a pain in the [expletive deleted] ass. Take it from the ex of a demented chain-smoker, an unwilling breather of polluted air, a resident of Wolman, home to at least one dedicated (forgetful) addict. Take it from Christopher Buckley, author of *Thank You For Smoking*, an acidly satiric novel that extenuated the smoking lobby, political correctness and mainstream political discourse with the same clean precision as an agitator working its deft, brutal machinations on a pack of forgotten cigarettes. Take it from your own lungs.

Until then, stay your required 10 feet from the entrance of my building, please.

SMOKING IN THE MOVIES

Throughout the history of film, smoking has played a role. From cowboys to aliens, all sorts of characters indulge in the habit.

This can have a significant impact on children who idolize the on-screen stars. For instance, teenagers who see their favorite stars frequently puffing on the big screen are 16 times more likely to harbor positive attitudes about smoking in the future, according to <http://smokefreemovies.ucsf.edu>.

Here are a couple films focused squarely on the issue of big tobacco.

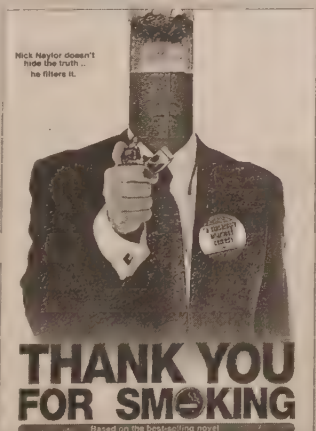
Thank You for Smoking

Thank You for Smoking makes the cigarette companies look as evil as they are brilliant, and makes everyone else — from anti-smoking lobbyists to the liberals who oppose them — look utterly incompetent.

In this film, Nick Naylor (played by Aaron Eckhart) works for a cigarette company-funded research group. Surprisingly, the group never publicizes any significant links between smoking cigarettes and a nega-

tive impact on health.

Nick gets the brilliant idea, at one point, to get film stars to start smoking on screen through product placement, in order to counter the negativity created by a recent law.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://ROTTENTOMATOES.COM](http://ROTTENTOMATOES.COM)

Russell Crowe, tells the true story of a former tobacco company researcher who decides to blow the whistle on the industry.

Like *Thank You for Smoking*, this film highlights the lengths the tobacco companies will go to in order to protect their businesses. However, in this film the opposition — Pacino and Crowe's characters — are just as resourceful.

A highly entertaining and dramatic piece, *The Insider* documents an event that led to one of the biggest setbacks in the history of Big Tobacco.

The Insider

Taking a thoroughly negative stance against Big Tobacco, *The Insider* starring Al Pacino and

Learning the delicate art of fine cigars

By WILLIAM PARSCHALK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

If tobacco was like alcohol, then cigarettes would be malt liquor and cigars would be a fine wine.

Both pleasurable in their own contexts, but for many people the turn-off of cigarette smoking may not be such a reality with cigar smoking.

Indeed, we are trained by society to view cigars in a different way.

When we think of people smoking cigarettes, we often think of people alienated outside, forced to smoke in the cold, whereas when we picture cigar smoking, images of power come to mind — movie stars living large, CEOs and business tycoons, Cuban revolutionaries.

For most of us, it seems a little daunting to get into cigar smoking. It's not quite the same as going down the block and picking up a pack of cigarettes.

The only cigars worth buying are generally sold in specialty tobacco stores. Fortunately, we happen to have one a short driving distance from campus.

Mt. Washington Cigar Co.
6059 Falls Road
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(410) 377-4711

This nice little cigar bar features a plethora of things to check out in order to get excited about cigar smoking. It not only has several couches and TVs, but

even wi-fi. Of course, they also carry a wide selection of cigars and other tobacco products and accessories.

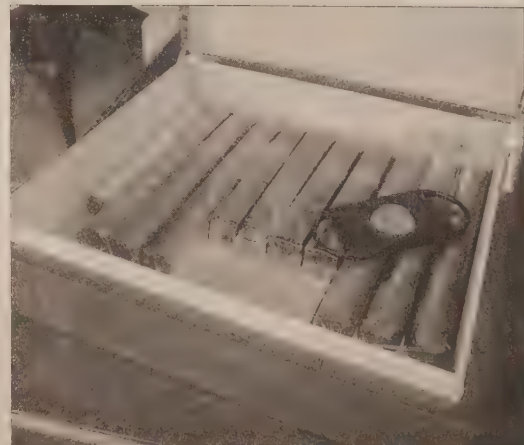
Even though the staff is a bit older than your average undergrad, they are very friendly, and you shouldn't hesitate to ask them any questions that you may have.

When first trying out cigars, don't be afraid to experiment. Fortunately you can buy cigars individually.

Cigars can come in a wide variety of tastes, and not every one will suit your palette. Typically the best are professionally hand-rolled, but these are also a little more costly.

Often you can tell a hand-rolled cigar by the shape and the texture of the paper. They may appear a little squarer looking as opposed to the cylindrical shape you get with machine-rolled cigars. The paper may wrap around the tobacco a little more tightly and be layered a bit more.

As far as taste, the darker the wrap, then generally the more



WILLIAM PARSCHALK/NEWS-LETTER
Nothing keeps your cigars in classier condition than a nice box.

bitter the taste. It's always nice to combine your cigar with a good drink, in case the taste may be a bit too much for you. Many cigar smokers like their cigars with a nice mixed drink or a beer (bottled, of course).

Once you've selected your cigar, you'll need a cutter. These are relatively cheap and easy to use. You simply place it over the sealed end of the cigar, and slice it off. This is the end you will smoke. It's best to suck on your cigar as you light it, to get the flame to take up the tobacco better. You should also slowly rotate the cigar as you light it to make sure the whole tip gets evenly lit.

Now that you're lit, hold the smoke in your mouth, breath in through your nose, and slowly exhale to get the full effect of the cigar.



ANGELI BUENO/NEWS-LETTER

Students sound off on smoking

Whether for or against, most Hopkins students have a strong opinion about smoking and smokers' rights. Below is a selection of those views:

"If you want to do that to your body, go right ahead, but there's no reason to inflict that pain on other people. Quite frankly, it's disgusting and it's not healthy."

—Nick Kreston, freshman

"I can understand that some people find it offensive, but I personally always try to keep it from invading other's space, so I think that I have the right to smoke in most public places."

—Patricia Pugh, freshman

"I think it's a bad habit. It should be allowed in open spaces, but in enclosed spaces it can be damaging to other people's health."

—Dave Weinstein, freshman

"I would prefer if smokers were not allowed to smoke in public. I don't like the smell of smoke."

—Grace Tam, freshman

"I think we need to push for an eventual ban on smoking because it's very costly to our healthcare system."

—Pradhyumna Agaram, sophomore

"I don't smoke. I'm not really a big fan. I don't care if other people do, though."

—Natalia Fijalkowski, junior

"It's a very destructive behavior, but sometimes people use it to cope with stress. It's an easy fix."

—John Canmer, graduate student, senior, School of Nursing, pursuing Masters in Public Health

"I'm not offended by anyone who does smoke, but it's not a choice I'm willing to make."

—Tim Rappazzo, freshman

"I'm clearly against smoking, mostly because some of the DNA damage in your youth can come back and give you cancer in your later years."

—Shannon Ruhf, graduate student, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Biochemical and Molecular Biology department

"So long as it's not bothering other people it's fine. It's very damaging in the long run, but if it's occasional smoking it's not that dramatic."

—Erica Giraldi, freshman

"I think it's absolutely disgusting. I don't know why people want to screw up their bodies. I think that the government has to do something about smoking, but I don't think anything is going to be done anytime soon."

—Allen Nawrocki, freshman

"I feel like smokers really don't have any rights anymore. As long as they're courteous and obey the law, people should stay out of their business. There's very little left to take away from them."

—Jamie MacGillis, freshman

—Compiled by Kensing Ng

FEATURES

The long road to writing a thesis

My senior thesis experience began where all things begin: In a parking lot in southern Mississippi, where a (possibly illegal) taxicab had just dropped me off, along with my duffel bag and laptop, with nary a goodbye.

I was an anthropology major who had signed on to write a thesis about Christian charities on the Gulf Coast, and after months of planning and drafting proposal after proposal, there I

was — faced with the daunting beginning of my fieldwork. Fast-forward six months, and I would be in the process of drafting a four-chapter monster that, if I am lucky, up to five people will read. But it's worth it, because the undergraduate thesis — offered as an option in many, if not all, Arts & Sciences departments — is one of the few opportunities for students to create some original and in-depth writing within an area of their interest.

Most thesis-writers think long and hard about their topics of research. After all, such a major paper — most are between 70 and 100 pages — is a year-long commitment at the very least, requiring real passion for the issue or question at hand.

"I was inspired to pursue my topic by a single person: Dr. Lisa DeLeonardis of the History of Art Department," senior Jennifer Snodgrass says of her thesis on ancient Andean aesthetics in Peru. "After taking her course freshman year, I was intrigued by a niche of art history I had never thought about before."

But occasionally, a thesis topic arises unexpectedly. Senior Nabiha Syed, an international studies and anthropology major, followed her interest in Islamic family law to a summer internship in Malaysia, where she collected information about the complicated laws governing polygamy.

Most thesis-writers share an affinity for the process of discovery. But the drudgery of composing the text can be another matter.

"Least exciting is writing the darn thing," Snodgrass says. "I love to write about this subject, but when writing a thesis you begin to scrutinize every single word as you start to realize how important it is to be totally accurate and expressive about your subject at the same time."

The local scene gets its charm from city's quirks

By ELISABETH SCHWARTZBERG
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Be you a lover or hater of Baltimore, we can all agree that the Charm City is supremely quirky. Defiant in the face of the recent incursion in our neighborhood of coffee conglomerates and neatly tree-lined avenues, Baltimore steadfastly holds onto many quirks.

One of the first things that comes to mind is the city accent, affectionately referred to as Balmerese. You've probably been asked, "More wooder, hon?" at a local restaurant. The eccentric "hon" culture is a long-standing Baltimore stereotype, originating with the local women who wore bright dresses, beehive hairstyles, blue eye shadow and unusual glasses from the 1950s to 1970s. The HonFest, which is held

Art transcends the visual medium with Labyrinth exhibit

By ERIN YANG
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Maybe your immediate reaction to the word *labyrinth* is to envision a maze from classical myth, or perhaps you'd recall the newly launched movie *Pan's Labyrinth*, but hold your breath, art lovers — "Labyrinth" is now also the title of a stunning exhibit of Les Harris' artwork from 1966 to 1976, now showing at the Amaranthine Museum of Baltimore.

Les Harris, one of the world's foremost visionary artists, features an overwhelming experience of art, museum and spirituality. The museum space is used to exemplify the Greek heroic tradition of the synthesis of art as craft and art as man's desire to order the chaos of nature. More than merely providing space for Harris' art work, its unique narrative and inspiration combined with elements of design and decoration boisterously intertwines with Harris' paintings.

"Labyrinth" presents its viewers a spectacular journey through the creative process of human civilization. A total of 16 sections of the Labyrinth take you from prehistory into post-future. You will encounter those familiar terms and genres of Gothic, Renaissance, Neoclassical, and Romantic; these names speak for their own styles and subject matters with solid historical contents. The entire gallery aims to seize the paradox of

the union of opposites, both backwards and forwards in time, as well as to portray a wider vision of spiritual and natural world. Harris' postmodern conception has transcended past into present pictorially with altered reality and vice versa.

The more than 200 works of art in a variety of media offset a multi-dimensional artistic experience; it even flows with distinctive music from one era to another. The manifestations of character and identity are meticulously displayed. For visitors, Les Harris has made sure to entertain with his full effort both visually and aurally. And with that, you can flow with your imagination and blend in to this carnival of dream and art that surrounds you.

At the entrance, "An Event Horizon" leads you into a course of metal bars, draped tinsel, frantic lightning, and awkwardly displayed frames that might somehow remind you of the restaurant down on 29th St., Papermoon Diner. Certainly the exotic display rudimentary carves out the initial impression of this visionary art. Wild, passionate, absorbing, yet well polished, with a recreation of mixed tableaux. Following the path of Labyrinth, you will walk from "Atlantis" all the way to the "Black Hole."

The paintings are unforgettable; they bear not only rich hues, bold lines and energetic brush-



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ANEVENTHORIZON.COM

The Labyrinth at the Amaranthine Museum provides visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in art of different eras.

strokes, but depict the underlying conflict of the spiritual and natural world. Les Harris has successfully brought the juxtaposition of structure and detail together to present a seemingly unsentimental, distanced theme.

While in the midst of metal bars, tinkering toy sculptures, stripped phone wires of different colors and display mannequins, the art created by Les Harris is

meant to weave the past with the future, presenting a timeless validity to embody the world of contemporary. Sections such as "The Age of Decadence" and "Black Hole" confuse you as to the purpose and theme of the exhibit, but don't panic. It sure will award you intellectual satisfaction and stimulation long after you finish your museum tour.

Whether your verdict is *astom-*

ishing! or worth paying another visit! or even this visionary art is crap!, you've got to explore yourself: walk out your room, grab a friend, and taste for yourself this thrilling experience. If you are sick of the BMA, the D-level "art gallery", Amaranthine Museum might be a good place to go.

The Labyrinth at the Amaranthine Museum, 3500 Clipper Rd., Baltimore. (410) 366-0574.

Taking a new route to 'study abroad'

One experience-hungry student tackles a foreign arena — without needing to leave the country

During junior year, many Hopkins students know someone returning from abroad, or are, in fact, coming back to the States themselves. Ask any one of these weary travelers, and they'll tell you of the adjustment involved when sinking back into the routine of classes, homework and the MSE library. These 21st-century Gullivers will talk of language adjustments, of shifting in work and leisure time and of completely different food. I too am one of those returning to Hopkins after time abroad, but rather than coming from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, or Australia, I came back from the land of Work.

And what type of world it is. I found myself navigating the waters of what some imagine as a post-grad event after, quite frankly, burning out on Hopkins' academia (sympathy pats all around). By sheer luck, I landed an internship in the Conservation Department at the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pa. I speak of fortune for several reasons: 1. It saved me from sloth and selling stores (a completely different story), 2. Wonderful people work in the Conservation Department, and 3. Art. The wonderful, glorious art.

I'll go ahead and make another admission before I begin my Barnes' primer. Not only was



COURTESY OF WHITNEY SHAFFER

Shaffer, a junior, tested the waters of the work world with a museum internship.

I burned out, I was wayward. I knew I had a deep passion and appreciation of art, but I had no clue about how I wanted to direct said passion. Now I've had my epiphany. It's conservation. Not saving trees and manatees, although that would be fun, but saving artwork.

Here's the perfect excuse to learn as much as one possibly can and then apply it in a systematic fashion. For every conservationist has, in their hands and brains, a wealth of information on art history, fine art and chemistry. Yes, chemistry.

It approaches art in a fairly unorthodox way: the physical elements of art. Historians think of art in a temporal context, viewers think of it in a visceral or aesthetic context, philosophers in a soul-tweaking context and artists in a manipulative context.

Of all these groups that engage themselves with art, the conservationist is the only one who has to absorb a little bit of each viewpoint and then add their own context of atoms, chemicals and physics. In this way, art truly becomes its own organism, one that not only affects and communicates, but also one that breathes, changes and retains a physical dynamism through the ages.

So, to veer from the prosthetizing, I'll relate why my semester off was akin to traveling abroad. Let's assume that people who go abroad have experiences that are completely unfathomable to them here. They see great sites, engage with people very different from them, and hopefully mature and come out a more educated, erudite soul.

By no stretch of the imagination, I can include myself in such a group. The people I worked with were very different from what I was used to, and from them I learned more than I ever have in 14-plus years of schooling. Perhaps most importantly, I saw some of the wonders of the art world — Matisse, Van Goghs, Renoirs. To see Matisse's *Joy of Life* only a few inches from my face and unframed was perhaps the closest possible thing to a spiritual experience without seeing the face of God.

The land of Work is a strange one, a communal of my Oz and Kansas. The black-and-white of home was transformed into a Technicolor dream among so many French masterworks. Do I believe that my life after graduation will be so blessed? Certainly not, but at least I can hope for splashes of Dorothy's life.

Whitney Shaffer
Guest Column

Decorate your privates for added sensitivity

We live in a non-sensical world. Often we hear or read things that make us utter, "WTF?!" For example, how is it possible that we elected a male cheerleader from Yale as president? Why is Britney Spears going without underwear and exposing her ladybits to the entire world?

Another one of those "What the hell?" moments is triggered by the thought of genital piercings. Even as I write this article, the thought of genital piercings has me dumbfounded. But I must remember that here at Hopkins we are dedicated to the exploration and discovery of truth. So why exactly do people choose to pierce their most sensitive and private parts? How painful is it? Does it actually increase sexual stimulation? The

The second most popular male piercing is the frenum, which also causes minimal pain and has a quick healing process. The frenum is essentially a piercing of the flexible skin on the underside of the penis' shaft. If you have a high tolerance for pain or think one piercing isn't quite cutting it, you can create a "frenum ladder" by having multiple piercings all the way up the shaft.

For the circumcised gentleman, I have good news. The Dydoe piercing will help you regain the sexual stimulation that you lost with the destruction of your foreskin. This piercing is placed through the ridge of the head and there are no limitations on the number of Dydoes a man can get. Essentially, you could encircle the entire head in silver barbells. For the success of this piercing, the head of the penis

must be large enough to hold the jewelry. Complications include tearing during rough and wild sex. That would certainly be a buzz kill! Without leaving out the uncut males, there is also a foreskin piercing.

One of the most dangerous and painful piercings is the Ampallang. A piercing is inserted horizontally through the entire head of the penis. It's vital to make sure the piercing is straight as it could disrupt important nerves and arteries necessary to the penis' function. Some will require the penis to be erect when marking the piercing, so be prepared to get it hard in front of your piercer. The needle must be slowly fed through the head to ensure that it goes straight through. Excessive bleeding is normal and healing can take up to one year.

Now you may be thinking, "My penis looks great but the rest of my package seems too plain." The Guiche is the piercing of the backside of the scrotum close to the anus. The healing process is complicated due to the lack of ventilation and temperature, and it is not recommended for cyclists — sorry, cycling team! Guys can also get a Hafada, a piercing of the scrotum, which, according to Elayne Angel, president and founder of Rings of Desire, Inc., is virtually painless because of the elastic skin.

Female Genital Piercings

The ladies have just as many



Ashley Wietsma
Orgasmic Chemistry

Male Genital Piercing

Beginning with the boys, let's look at the various options they have for genital jewelry. Overall, these piercings do in fact increase sexual stimulation by providing another form of friction during sex. It is a misconception that genital piercings are extremely painful. Though there is a high concentration of nerve endings in the penis, specifically in the head, these nerves are specialized to sensing pleasure and are not as receptive to pain.

The most common piercing is none other than the Prince Albert. With only a two- to four-month healing time and a lower risk of infection, this is the favored choice of males. A needle feeding tube is inserted into the urethra and the needle is fed from the outside in through the tube. The ring hangs out from tip of the head down below. Minimal cleaning is required for this piercing and you only have to remain abstinent for one week.

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FEATURES



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Finding strange thrills in Baltimore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

Maybe you've accidentally (or not so accidentally) stumbled across "The Block," the city's red light district of choice. Interestingly, city residents often see "The Block" as a source of pride. If you'd like to experience this aspect of Baltimore's rich culture firsthand, "The Block" is located on East Baltimore Street between South and Gay streets.

One of our celebrities, John Waters, is the self-proclaimed "King of Bad Taste." He has said that if someone threw up at one of his screenings, "It would be like a standing ovation." Waters, a filmmaker who originally set out to infuriate Baltimore, ended up being loved and well-received by the city. Baltimore has celebrated "John Waters Day" since 1985.

Yes, Baltimore is a bit strange. But since we live here, perhaps we should coexist with this strangeness peacefully. We don't have to take pride in "The Block" and we don't have to drink Natty Boh at the next house party over.

Although, when Natty Boh's all that there is, you're probably going to take one for the team and drink it anyway. But it's not every day that you find a city that appreciates its red-light district. And really, the unusual people and perspectives that you find here are what make the city worth getting to know.

John Waters puts it best: "I would never want to live anywhere but Baltimore. You can look far and wide, but you'll never discover a stranger city with such extreme style. It's as if every eccentric in the South decided to move North, ran out of gas in Baltimore, and decided to stay."

sible. Many women will wonder whether the VCH and Triangle provide more added stimulation. Both have the same overall effect but differ in the location of stimulation (VCH from the front, Triangle from the back). Some women end up getting both!

The most rare and serious female piercing is that of the clitoris itself. You must have a large clitoris and a hood that does not cover it tightly or heavily. It is an intense process and you should find a well-qualified piercer before committing. The result is a large increase in sexual pleasure directly from the most sensitive female organ.

Whether it's to enhance your sex life or simply add a bit of color on your family jewels, genital piercings are becoming more popular. You may still be thinking "What in God's name?!" but there must be some reward otherwise it wouldn't be so popular. For 20 years, one woman thought she was physically unable to experience sexual satisfaction, but after getting a Vertical Clitoral Hood piercing, she came harder than two decades of orgasms combined. That's definitely something to think about.

Gential piercings can add to your sexual pleasure

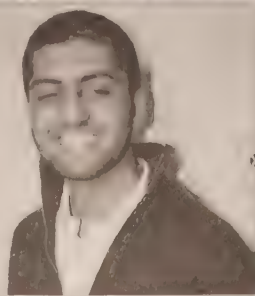
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options when it comes to decorating our favorite parts of our bodies. The most popular piercing is the Vertical Clitoral Hood in which the barbell is placed vertically through the skin covering the clitoris. This piercing has a minimal healing process of four months and is comfortably situated between your legs.

The piercing sits on top of the clitoris without going through. In a study conducted by the University of South Alabama, it was proven that VCH provides increased sexual satisfaction through added stimulation of the clitoris. There is also a Horizontal Clitoral Hood piercing, but it is solely aesthetic. Like the HCH, Inner and Outer Labia piercings are to add sparkle down there. None of them provide a great difference in sexual satisfaction.

The Triangle piercing similar to the HCH goes through the hood of the clitoris horizontally; however, the Triangle goes through the bundles of nerves behind the clitoris. This piercing supplies stimulation from the back of the clitoris — an experience that is otherwise impos-

HOT AT HOPKINS



-KESHEV KHANIJOW-
Hometown:
Fremont, Calif.
Major: Neuroscience
Year: Sophomore

If you're looking for someone to heat the water in your shower, this brown-eyed, dark-haired wonder is there for you. Because he's on the Residents' Advisory Board, of course, and is helping to make student's lives in the Hopkins dorms a better place. Which is especially nice if you're the honest boy that this cutie is

looking to spend time with when he is not raising money as fundraising chair of DASGA (Diverse Sexual and Gender Alliance) or being a research assistant in Dr. Rapp's lab at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. That may be an impressive list of comings and goings, but don't be worried that he won't have time to romance you.

Quite cute and a little quirky (he lists "eating ice-cream with a fork" as his weirdest habit) it's something as simple as "Yellow" by Coldplay, or "I Could Fall in Love" by Selena to get the romantic vibes flowing. Once, "for my parents' anniversary, I went to the restaurant they had their first date at in San Francisco ... and brought them home a surprise dinner." So he's willing to give, but also likes to receive romantic gestures, citing "I was cuddling with a guy I was dating and he told me he liked me. It was just the perfect moment and the sun was just setting ... it was really romantic. Of course

I responded, 'I like you too.' It was just one of those sweet dating moments." He can't be so suave all time; Keshev tells of the time when he and his date "went to the Starbucks at the new Barnes and Noble in Charles Commons, and I dropped by J-card so that it fell underneath the counter and I couldn't get it back. In addition, to clumsily losing my J-card, I also dropped my cheesecake on the floor ... but it added some comic relief to the tense situation." Awww... we wouldn't worry.

What kind of boy would get the A-list treatment? He'd have to be sincere, loyal and chivalrous, with "decent hygiene." Cheaters get the ole' heave-ho as do those "people who brag and flaunt," but the one who is in the possession of a "romantic, spontaneous attitude" get him all steamed up. Sound good to you? You're in luck — this catch is up for grabs!

That first big test is coming 'round. Thank that study buddy by nominating them for Hot at Hopkins! E-mail JHUFeatures@hotmail.com to get their name in the paper.

We all know opposites attract, and this could not be truer in sexy sophomore and San Francisco native Eva Yopes. Eva, despite being a diminutive five-foot-two-and-three-quarter-inches tall (exactly), is into tall guys like Adam Brody. And she dislikes people who always have to be right, though she herself likes to be precise.

For example: Eva's hair is not blonde or brown. It's creamy caramel, no more no less. And her extracurriculars, in addition to her full-time job being awesome, include hosting a radio show on WJHU, which airs every Monday, without fail, at exactly 10 p.m. And this isn't the only thing in her schedule set in stone. No matter what, Eva is in bed by 11 p.m. and up by 9 a.m., even if she doesn't have class! When asked about her most embarrassing dating experience, Eva simply says that the ques-

tion does not apply to her. "I am never awkward," she states confidently. She's especially graceful on the dance floor: When it comes to dance-offs, this bombshell wins them all.

Where does Eva's exactitude come from? Maybe it's from her years of carefully studying the intricacies of the mind as a cognitive science major. Or maybe it's because a boy once told her she was perfect. We're not too sure. But we do know that Eva is precisely single.

So if you're tall, your hair is the opposite of creamy caramel and you have two left feet and an irregular sleeping pattern, drop this babe a line. Or, if that's not you, Eva is willing to make an exception to the opposites attract rule as long as you have a good taste in music, you're not close-minded, you don't leave dirty dishes in the sink and you're willing to make the first move.



-EVA YOPES-
Hometown:
San Francisco, Calif.
Major: Cognitive Science
Year: Sophomore

Speaking of the first move, when asked about her ideal date, this precise cutie cuts right to the chase: "Sex," she says without hesitation, though she hints at some juicy details. Even on the first date? Precisely.

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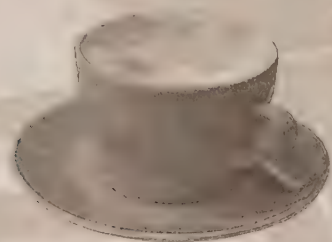


Free Bagel Day, Thursday February 8, 2007
8am-12noon at Wolman Hall

One bagel per customer

FEATURES

This week in Hopkins history...



20's-60's ~

70's

80's

90's-00's

1915
"Hopkins wins Armory Meet"
Hopkins Track and Field emerges victorious at the Fifth Regiment Armory Meet, triumphing over the University of Virginia as well as the University of Pennsylvania in various events, but sadly coming in second to Georgetown in the mile-long indoor relay.

1979
"Coffee Crisis"
Gilman Coffee Shop is cited by health authorities to improve its facilities, brought on by the discovery of mouse droppings in the café's storeroom.

1983
The Student Life Planning Committee is formed to evaluate and prepare a document about the future of Hopkins student life over the next 20 years. The committee will be devoted to discussing student housing, social and recreational life, and providing a proper balance between academic and cultural activities.

1987
"Fraternities committed to dry rush"
Dean of Students says 10 fraternities and four sororities have agreed to an alcohol-free rush season. The Hopkins Greek community hopes a dry rush will give the organization a positive image.

1991
"Rogers House offered to Phi Mu"
The Housing Office and Office of Homewood Schools of Services offered University housing to a sorority for the first time.

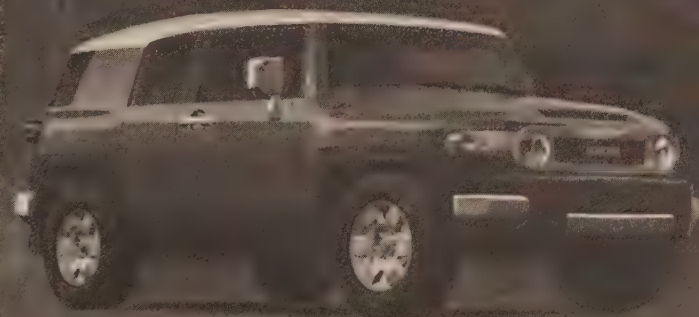
1997
"Hopkins welcomes the Multimedia Development Center"
Homewood Campus opened the HAC Multimedia Development Center boasting state-of-the-art workstations, in both Macintosh and Windows operating systems, for image, sound, video editing and "world wide Web authoring." The center is complete with various scanners, laser printers, and even a CD-ROM burner.

2006
"Bloomberg revealed as anonymous donor"
The anonymous donor of a \$100 million dollar gift to the University was revealed to be current New Yorker and Hopkins Alumnus Michael Bloomberg. The gift is to be used as funding for the Gilman Restoration Project, the Children's Tower at Hopkins Hospital, various programs at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and for the Institute for Cell Engineers.

AS A COLLEGE GRAD, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR

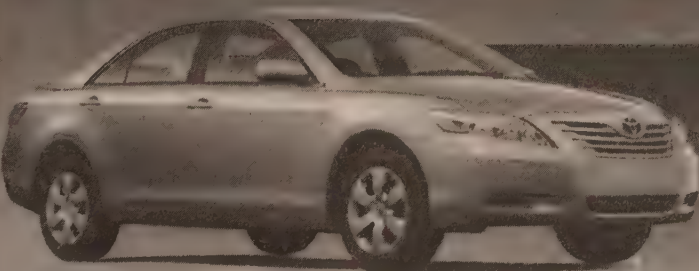
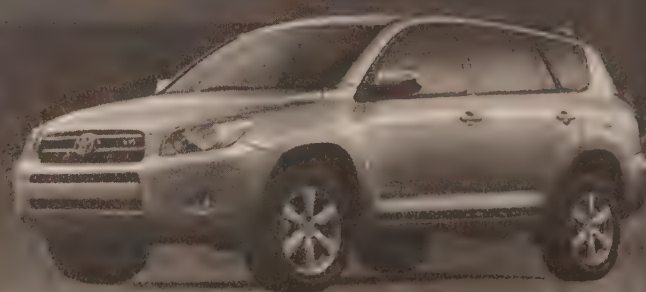
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Let it Snow! avoids immaturity, shows depth

Witness Theater's inter-session show delights audience with its original combination of humor, tragedy and sense of pathos

By **PATRICK MEANEY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Let it Snow!, written by junior Mitch Frank and directed by grad student Leigh Lieberman, played at the Swirnow Theater this past weekend. Produced by Witness Theater, the student-run theater group at Hopkins, the show had remarkably little "student" about it. The cast of five undergrads relentlessly dominated everything for the whole performance, by which I mean there was no missing a beat, no stammering of the voice, and no nonsense like overacting or pandering for the cheap laugh.

The play follows the track of two estranged brothers, Millard and Rutherford (freshman Jack Berger and sophomore Raphael Krut-Landau), their loopy mother (senior Iulia Tracey), Rutherford's girlfriend Henrietta (junior Jackie Jennings), and their dead brother Ulysses (junior Tony Chiarito), who appears in flashbacks. In the first scene we learn Ulysses has died in a car accident.

The plot then splits into two threads, past and present. This was ambitious of Mitch Frank, to say the least — I am slow, and for a while I thought the death was a lie on the mother's part to bring her family together again.

Or perhaps this distrust is intentional; uncertainty heightens suspense, as the trope goes. Either way, the plot's dualistic nature clarifies itself quickly enough. The family's history and hierarchy develop well. Seemingly innocuous scenes, such as Henrietta playfully trying to cut Ulysses' permission to cut his hair, take on a subtler meaning. As Faulkner said, "The past is not dead. In fact, it's not even past."

But that's not even the half of it. Later on, Rutherford, the would-be writer doing time as a librarian, encounters the spitting image of dead Ulysses in the form of the ticket collector on the train back home. The muse suddenly smacks him and he begins



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Henrietta (sophomore Jackie Jennings) tries desperately to give Ulysses (junior Tony Chiarito) a hair cut in *Let it Snow!*

writing; his girlfriend demands to see what he is writing, and he complies, only to find himself reproved with "That's not how it happened!" Then how did it, asks Rutherford. The ensuing scene exceeds past and present. Rutherford has long been eaten up with jealousy, thinking Henrietta made advances on Ulysses when she asked to cut his hair, and that Ulysses happily indulged her.

The two come to a head; but rather than having a simplistic melodramatic shouting match with tears and quivering voices and such, the scene is shown three times as Rutherford imagines it versus how Henrietta reports it. Explicitly we see that not only is the past never dead, but it is ultimately unknowable if it was not your own experience — a fine addendum to the earlier quote by Faulkner.

As any Writing Seminars nerd

will tell you, writing is what's left to one when he doesn't get invited to the party. So, is it a play about writing, memory, trust, family, brotherhood — what? The answer is yes. It is a sincere play, and it is a funny play. Make of it what you will. You really can't go wrong.

The performance was duly light-hearted. The play is sort of a comedy, slightly dark but not overbearingly so, and the performers struck an excellent balance between black and whimsical humor.

For this we can thank the director and the actors. It would have been easy at times in the performance to hit the wrong pitch; a line said too sarcastically, angrily or comically would have soured a scene. The funniest stuff was the bizarre, the everyday and the inexplicable.

The initial exchange between Rutherford and his mother speaks to anyone who hates the

phone. After saying "Hello?" back and forth a few times, Rutherford identifies the caller as his mother, who continues saying "Hello," although her son has begun asking her where she is, which she doesn't know. He lies about already being on a train, but then hears her speaking aloud nearby, and finds her in the same parking lot as him. Meanwhile he learns that his brother is dead, but it's really no love lost.

Finding his other brother for the funeral then becomes Rutherford's chore. Sequences such as this one move the play right along; there's not much fat to be chewed between plot-oriented scenes.

Sometimes it was hard to place a scene into the larger picture, or perhaps it never did quite fit in. I still can't figure out the exact temporal sequence of the thing, but I know how it begins and ends, which is enough for enjoyment's sake.

The final scene — the actual funeral and Rutherford's eulogy for his brother — felt a bit rushed and provided a shaky resolution. I had hoped to hear briefly from the rest of the family, only because I thought that they were important enough to say something of their fallen fellow.

Still, a resolution is a resolution; the play kept a good pace from beginning to end and finished strong. At the close, the audience was led in song to the eponymous Christmas carol, and the fact that they did shows they appreciated the performance.

Year of the Pig comes with a bang to JHU

By **CHARLES TSAI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Pig had one hell of a pre-season party this past Saturday, although some spectators may have been unable to understand everything that was going on.

That's because this past Saturday at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, more than 2,000 people of various ages and ethnicities adorned the venue with their raw energy, enthusiasm and joy, joining together to celebrate Chinese New Year 2007, Year of the Pig. This year's greater Baltimore-Washington, D.C. Chinese New Year celebration was hosted by the JHU Chinese Student and Scholars Association.

Thirteen performances commenced without intermission: An opening Tibet Dance from The Hope Chinese School Ma Ma Dancing Group set the tone with their warm colored costumes and poorly recorded audio playing in the background — a recurring theme through most of the performances. Youping Chen's Flute Solo materialized images of landscapes through "The Herdsman's Song."

The American Wu Shu Academy performed an up tempo and highly energetic Wu Shu (Military Arts) — known as Kung Fu in the West — routine, choreographed by one of Jet Li's partners.

The highlight of the night came from two Liberace cape and Asian mask-wearing performers. On top of the poor sounding audio, skepticism could be felt through the silence of the crowd as the two came forth, however it was soon lost. Like a magic act, both performers moved around the stage, changing their masks in split seconds — with a hand

movement, a half-second jump or a wave of a fan. This is one of Sichuan Opera's most revered styles of acting, called Changing Faces (Bian Lian.) Limei Yang and Yandong Li flew from Sichuan, China especially for the event (returning the day after) — they are only two of approximately 100 certified Bian Lian performers, having studied for 30 years.

After the Changing Faces performance, the audience seemed to lose interest in the dances and musical performances to follow, up until the Comic dialogue, "The Incoherent." Talking on situations of language and dealing with people, JHU students Xiang Li and Rui Zhang captivated the audience.

From President William Brody's Introduction in Chinese to the dialogue between the Mcs, a sense of awkwardness was felt for those who didn't speak the language. On top of that, the culture of Chinese New Year performances is noticeably different in that the audience speaks during performances, clap when they want to, and even the Mcs encourage audience engagement with questions such as "Are you feeling satisfied?" or "Are you having fun?"

But perhaps the best explanation of this was from one audience member, Mei Zeng, who traveled from Virginia just to attend the event. "The purpose is for giving people a chance to get together and enjoy the environment. People do whatever they want to be happy," she said.

Through the cheering, clapping, smiling, and boldly singing aloud, it seems about 2,000 people achieved this state of happiness. And not to mention, a Pig must've too.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

The Year of the Pig celebration was the cultural equivalent of the Super Bowl.

Isaac Hayes rains down on Ram's Head

By **MARK MEHLINGER**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Most people in our generation probably recognize him as Chef from *South Park*, the big, crooning ladies' man/elementary school cafeteria chef who made the song "Chocolate Salty Balls" which became a number-one hit in Britain.

Twenty-seven years earlier, this animated-television star became the first solo black artist to reach the top of both the pop and R&B charts. His score for the movie *Shaft* earned him an Oscar, three Grammy Awards, and a Golden Globe. Despite his

impoverished youth, he's had a successful acting career, owns two restaurants, hosts a radio show and wrote a best-selling cookbook. Not to mention, he is a coronated king of the Ada Coastal District in Ghana. "Who is this extraordinary individual?" you might ask. His name is Isaac Hayes.

This past Thursday, Baltimore was lucky enough to have the King of Soul perform at Ram's Head in the Power Plant. As always, Ram's Head provided a spacious, comfortable and attractive environment to hear someone of such stature. Unlike most shows at similar venues the atmosphere

was considerably tame, as the majority of the crowd were middle-aged. Although Isaac Hayes is such a big name, attendance was not overbearing, keeping the audience concentrated on the main floor.

At 9 p.m., the show started without delay. Isaac Hayes slowly ascended to the stage in a red kaftan. Still sporting his trademark sunglasses and beard, the king looked as if he hadn't aged much during the whole of his career. His 11-member band was composed of Hayes on vocals and lead keys, three other keyboardists jointly operating two keyboards, a guitarist, bassist, drummer, percussionist and three backup singers. Despite the lack of brass and woodwind instruments, the band still recreated realistic horn sections through the use of about seven different synthesizers. Whether the mood was soulful, jazzy or funky, all of the musicians displayed their outstanding abilities to improvise, emphasizing the talent and professionalism of the group.

To fight the cold, their opening number started the night with a taste of pure funk. Despite being a few generations ahead of the average college student, the well-dressed crowd definitely knew how to party as the dance floor quickly shifted into motion.

To keep things moving, Hayes surprised the crowd with a colorful rendition of "Chocolate Salty Balls." The reworked version of the song was much funkier than the original *South Park* version, complete with multiple improvised layers.

While it was clear that a small proportion of the crowd were not aware of the song's comedic origin, it still brought plenty of laughs to the atmosphere, and proved to be a hit on the dance floor as well as on television.

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MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Pioneering funk musician Isaac Hayes delivered the heat last Thursday at Ram's Head.

Keller Williams masters floppy-haired rock

By **REBECCA MESSNER**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Keller Williams, who performed to a sold-out audience at Ram's Head this past Saturday, is a floppy-haired music machine. Walking into the middle of a Keller set, winding your way through the sea of smoked-out Birkenstocks is all you can do to try to get a better look at the stage. As far as you know, you're coming to see just a guy and his guitar: your standard singer-songwriter. The sound coming from the stage, however, is much too rich, with too many instruments and vocal harmonies to be coming from just a guy and his guitar.

Herein lies the beauty of a Keller Williams show. There he is in his red T-shirt and khakis, bouncing on the balls of his feet, hair flopping and belly jiggling, fingers flying and eyes casually wandering. He reminds you of your eccentric, sort of geeky frat friend ... that one who plays the guitar really freaking well.

Emerging out of his nonchalant geeky-ness is a sound fit for any five-piece acoustic jam band. Self-taught at guitar since the age of 13, Keller released his first album in 1994, when he was 24. Unlike your classic singer-songwriter, he

employs live technology to make up for missing band members. On stage stand various instruments: His main guitars are modified 12-string acoustics, although he's also been known to use an electric guitar, a synthesizer and a Fender Jazz Bass.

He'll pick one up, play a lick and press a foot pedal, looping it, kind of like an acoustic DJ. Then he'll add a vocal riff, a bass line and a vocal harmony, looping these. Sometimes he'll move over to the vibraphones, play some chords on the keyboard or create beats with his fingers on a synthetic drum machine. In a Q&A on his Web site, Williams comments that much of his inspiration for such a full sound comes from "wanting to make people dance without having to pay a drummer."

And indeed, the people were moving to the beats. "It just makes me wanna dance!" my friend and fellow concert-goer Sophie Korn commented when we finally

found a decent spot on the floor. To this, the short guy with a wool cap in front of us replied, "Me too, man! He's so sick!" The music is infectious and bouncy — a kind

of jam that's not too jammy — a kind of jam you can dance to. And his lyrics add to the mix of entertainment. Often amusing, his songs are about anything from moving sidewalks to cookies to the meaning of life. "Life

is like a roller coaster," he sings. "You get burnt in the sun while you're waiting to ride." Or "Life is like an ice cream cone, dripping down your hand."

He threw some covers into the mix as well on Saturday, delighting the audience with funky reggae versions of Jimi Hendrix's "The Wind Cries Mary" and tracks from Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. And Williams has been known to cover often, paying homage to the musicians he respects, such as Martin Sexton, Charlie Hunter and bassist Victor Wooten of

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Isaac Hayes steps away from the keyboard to direct his band last Thursday at Ram's Head, where he funk'd up the place.

Hayes brings funk (and noise) to town

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

After bringing some heat to the Ram's Head scene, the king slowed things down a bit with "Walk On By," the 1969 hit off his first landmark album *Hot Buttered Soul*. Hayes' simultaneous vocal and keyboarding skills were each distinct. His on-stage performing abilities sounded just as good, if not better, than his original hit recordings, a skill most contemporary artists can't touch today.

Keeping things in the mood, Hayes performed another hit off *Hot Buttered Soul*, "By The Time I Get to Phoenix," and his version of "I Stand Accused" off 1970's *The Isaac Hayes Movement* LP. Staying within his trademark style, each song was drawn out, featuring numerous improvised solos and jam sessions.

At one point, Hayes and the band were outplayed by his drummer and percussionist in a five-minute session that combined expressive Afro-Latin beats with tight concise funky drum patterns. Even when the king wasn't playing, his band was able to entertain the crowd with their expertise.

Hayes ended the show with an extended version of his Grammy, Oscar and Golden Globe-winning hit, the "Theme Song From Shaft." Although the only song he did not play keys on, Hayes continued to display his expert musicianship by conducting the band as well as singing lead vocals.

The song started slow and soft with a lengthened introduction followed by Hayes' classic lyrics, "Who is the man that would risk

his neck for his brother man?" "Shaft!" replied the backup singers.

After singing vocals, Hayes conducted the band through various rhythm and melody takes on the song; many concluded with a number of drum kicks that signaled by a number Isaac held on his hand, all the while perfectly synchronized with red, blue, yellow and white lighting schemes.

Altogether, Isaac Hayes and his band played a phenomenal show at Ram's Head. Well known for his harmonic virtuosity and television hilarity, Isaac Hayes' long career shows that music and entertainment can bridge generational, cultural and continental gaps. All in attendance on Thursday night were no less than

thrilled to witness the craft of such a well-spoken artist, who has shown that even worldwide greatness can be achieved from a destitute background.



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

"Chef" from *South Park* belts out some soul with his band.

Nine Days gone, but not for long

By DYLAN DIGGS
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Remember that tune played so often over the radio, "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)?" Have you ever wondered what ever happened to that band? Well just in case you forgot their name, it's Nine Days. The name comes from how long front men John Hampson and Brian Desveaux took to write their first album, *Something to Listen to*. In case you haven't heard the news, they never left us. And they showed that in full force as they rocked out at Santa Fe Café in College Park last Saturday.

The concert was their first in Maryland since their days in 2000 touring for their gold record, *Madding Crowd*. "Those were the gravy days, man," Hampson said to the bar full of buzzed patrons as he and Desveaux reminisced. Though it may have been a smaller venue than during those gravy days, Nine Days, made up of Hampson, Desveaux, Nick Dimichino (bass), Vincent Tattaneli (drums) and Jeremy Dean (keyboard), took the road for their new album, *Slow Motion Life (Part One)*, independently released by their own label last month. *Part Two* is due to come out in the summer.

Eren Cannata proved to be a fantastic and upbeat opening act, driving down from New York to promote his upcoming major label debut album *Blame It On The City* due for release on March 20. But the show really started when Nine Days took a darkened stage and Hampson belted out the first stanza of "Favorite Song" before welcoming in the lights and the music.

"Favorite Song" was to be the second single off their sophomore record, *So Happily Unsatisfied*, before the release of the album was held back by their label at the time, Epic Records. *So Happily Unsatisfied* was more alternative rock-oriented than the much more pop-rock *Madding Crowd*, but it never saw the light of day. With their break from Epic solidified, Nine Days quickly released the aptly titled, but rarely heard, *Flying the Corporate Jet*. After "Favorite Song," Hampson led the band into their modestly successful second single off *Madding Crowd*, "If I Am," and the concert was off to a roaring start.

One of the greatest benefits of going to a concert of a band that

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New Vibrations

Of Montreal
Hissing Fauna,
Are You The
Destroyer?
Polyvinyl Records
Jan. 23, 2007



This is (arguably) the coolest album out right now. It's indie, it's danceable, you can't quite pin it down. It's kind of like a cross between The Beatles and a DFA remix of a Bloc Party song with great lyrics, it's just tons of fun to listen to. Of Montreal (out of Athens, Ga. — they're not Canadian) have been around for a while but they seem to be gaining more critical attention with each release. With some crazy keyboards and rock solid beats they have made the best indie dance record of the year so far.

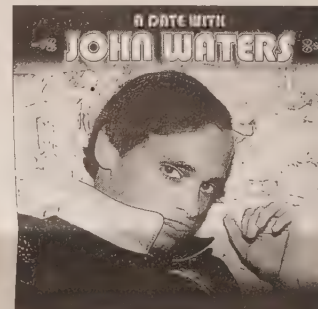
The music tries to wind out of every pop cliché as often as possible; just when you think you get the cheesy keyboard part of "Heimdalsgate Like A Promethean Curse," the vocals kick in and the chords keep shifting until nothing about the song feels like familiar territory. A stand-out dance track called "Gronlandic Edit" has a chorus that begins with the line "I guess it would be nice to give my heart to a god, but which one do I ch-ch-ch-choose / the church is filled with losers," which then devolves into this vocal harmony where each new overdubbed vocal track blends in a kind of Sgt. Pepper's harmony

à la "With A Little Help From My Friends." Everything about this album just sounds so fresh. (I feel like the guy on a BET commercial going, "This album's got the freshest beats..." whatever...) Lead singer Kevin Barnes has allegedly wrote and produced this album basically by himself and he deserves tons of credit, especially for the first line of "A Sentence of Sorts in Kongsvinger" which is "I spent the winter on the verge of a total breakdown while living in Norway / I felt the darkness of the black metal bands."

The only issues with this album are that there is a one gigantic track at the center that's 12 minutes long and as my roommate put it, "They have the keyboards coming out of everywhere. It's annoying." I wouldn't really call it "annoying," but the album can be a little abrasive at some points especially if you're not hosting some ridiculously arty dance party at that present moment. But, for music that's this good and adventurous, why couldn't you be hosting that ridiculously arty party at that present moment?

—Adam Lempel

Various Artists
A Date With
John Waters
New Line
Records
Feb. 6, 2007



Just in time for Valentine's Day, John Waters has released a mix tape — a gift perhaps to his loyal fans — of crooning love songs. The CD cover art features a very young Waters peering seductively over his shoulder, inviting the listener into a world of sensual pleasure. It is a collection that wines you, dines you, seduces you, and then leaves in the morning, hung-over and smelling like cigarettes.

The collection features love songs from punk outfits like Elton Montello to a tortured and bluesy Tina Turner and it covers every type of love a person could feel. The CD starts off with "To-

night You Belong to Me" by Patience and Prudence, an angelic sort of "doo wop" ditty, and then jumps right into Motello's jumpy Euro-pop song about fellatio and confused sexual orientation.

From there the collection couples Clarence Henry classic "Ain't Got No Home" with a rare Mildred Bailey swing song from the '30s. The climax of the whole date hits you hard in the form of Tina Turner's heartbreaking, vocal chord-ripping tale of her man marrying another woman, complete with wailing backup singers. It will send chills down your spine.

—Alex Begley

Smokin' Aces proves to be a catastrophe

By ALEXANDER TRAUM
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The English language has generously provided a repository of words to describe *Smokin' Aces*. "Bad" comes to mind first, but then "horrible," "absurd" and "ridiculous" soon appear. These are followed by "atrocious," "disgusting" and "insipid." Coming up with adjectives to describe this film would serve as a venerable SAT-vocab study guide. Admittedly, it makes a reviewer's job easier.

Directed by Joe Carnahan, *Smokin' Aces*, in its highly stylized violence and gore, attempts to recreate a Tarantino film. Instead, Carnahan creates a film that with its relentless violence and one-dimensional characters leaves the audience not simply dumbfounded, but actually dumber.

Here's the "plot": Every assassin in town is trying to kill Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven), a Vegas-magician-turned-Vegas-mobster, who has turned himself into the FBI. The FBI is, accordingly, attempting to protect this coke-snorting lowlife in exchange for his serving as a federal witness against the top

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Williams draws inspiration from the greats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

Béla Fleck and the Flecktones, who is said to be his chief inspiration. His new CD, *Dream*, in stores Feb. 6, features all three artists; in addition to other jam band powerhouses like Bob Weir, Michael Franti and the String Cheese Incident. The fact that so many talented musicians appear on his new album is a simple testament to his gifted ingenuity.

He's more than eager to share the spotlight, and he did so Saturday night, with the Virginia-based bluegrass couple the Keels. He is Larry Keel, the bearded king of "flat-picking guitar," and she's Larry's wife, the hot blond on the upright bass. They added a great grass-roots feel to the mix, especially when Keller brought out the crowd-pleasing "Frecker by the Speaker" for the encore.

The second set ended on a truly euphoric note as we received a special message at midnight when Keller left the stage for the first time before returning for his encore.

"Hey guess what?" asked the big on-stage screen. There were some scattered "What's" yelled in response.

"It's now officially Keller's birthday!" the screen said. Cheers and drinks were raised.

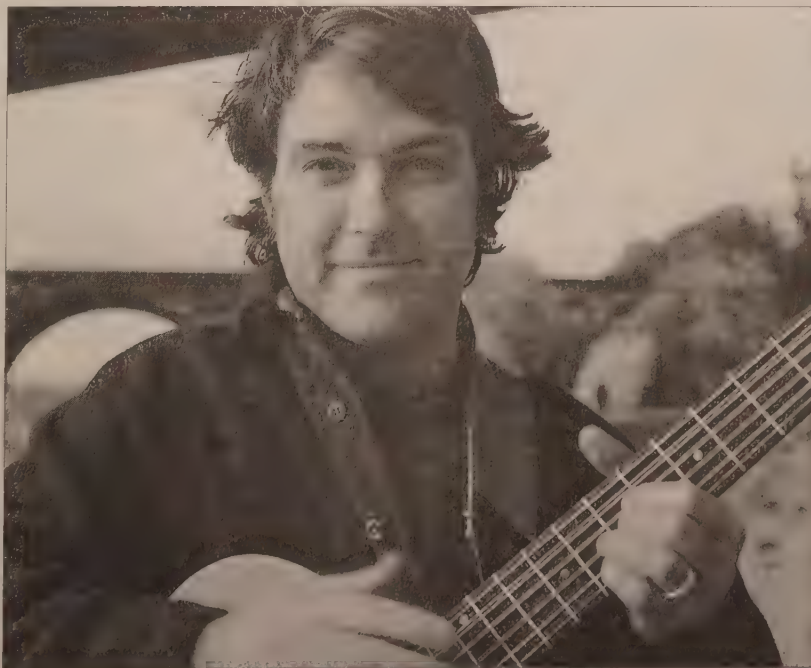
"Let's sing for him! Be sure to sound drunk and incoherent..."

This was not a problem. The crowd sang joyously and yes, rather incoherently, as Keller modestly returned. An adorable video of his daughter Ella was projected in the background as

he excitedly closed with the song, "Celebrate Your Youth."

Though perhaps no longer youthful Keller Williams, 37 (on Sunday), definitely has reason to celebrate.

To hear some of Keller's commentary and self-described "mix tapes" tune into Baltimore's 87.9 WTMD on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. for his syndicated radio show, "Keller's Cellar." Or, go to <http://www.wtmd.org> for an online stream.

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.JAMHUB.COM](http://WWW.JAMHUB.COM)

One-man band Keller Williams is a self-taught musician who plays several instruments on stage easily.

Panda Bear
Person Pitch
Paw Tracks
March 20, 2007



From Noah Lennox, better known as Panda Bear and as one of the four members of Animal Collective, comes *Person Pitch*, a delicious medley of pop songs that sounds a little like a modern-day take on classic Brian Wilson.

Person Pitch is Lennox's third solo album. His first was released on his own record label back in 1999 while he still lived in Baltimore. In 2002 he released the well-received *Young Prayer*, a dedication to his father. *Person Pitch* moves beyond the simple acoustic arrangements of *Young Prayer*, centering on all kinds of soft and gentle synthesizers, effects and noises that give a very organic texture to the album.

The opening track, "Comfy in Nautica" starts off with a pleasant chorus of voices chanting, with Lennox singing about having a positive outlook on life, while an assortment of odd clicks, beeps and echoes float around. It's a nice piece that appropriately sets the tone and the sound of the songs to follow.

"Take Pills," the second track, is an obvious nod to drug usage which seems to have influenced the album. In many ways it recalls the sonic explorations

of bands like the Beatles and the Flaming Lips, with standard pop-song structure interwoven with all kinds of refreshing and novel noises. The lyrics repeat, "I don't want us to take pills anymore. I feel stronger and we don't need them." Lennox sounds as if he has been going through a very self-medicinal phase during the making of this album.

One of the nicer pop-songs on the album is "Bros", which, despite being 10 minutes long, maintains a positive, energetic quality throughout. Unlike some of the other tracks, the vocals aren't weighed down with excessive echo and reverb, so that a nice melody is allowed to emerge from the tune.

The album is not flawless, nor is it ground-breaking, but it is definitely a very pleasant and enjoyable listen, worthy of adding to your music collection. It successfully showcases an artist who has an intense amount of potential, and who will very likely soon be heralded for it.

—William Parschall

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Alicia Keys stars as assassin Georgia Sykes in the action-packed, character-filled yet plotless hit-man film *Smokin' Aces*.

Aces characters don't die quickly enough

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B7
mobsters in the United States. Plot twist here ... Plot twist there. That's all.

The film's assassins, in Carnahan's exasperatingly self-conscious postmodern irony, encompass the classic stereotypes and insanities you might expect. There's the trio of blue-collar assassins led by Ben Affleck, who dons a laughable mustache. There are also the über-ghetto female assassins (Alicia Keys and Taraji Henson) meant to allude to the blaxploitation movies of the 1970s, and the more recent tough-girl persona at the center of the *Kill Bill* films. Sorry Alicia; you're a far cry from Uma.

And I shouldn't fail to mention the Tremor Brothers (Chris Pine, Kevin Durand and Maury Sterling), who, in their stupidity and psychopathy, proudly fuse the hillbilly and the neo-Nazi. Then there are just your run-of-the-mill screwballs, including a Latino sadist and an appearance-altering hit man. Countering these hostile forces are the FBI heroes Ray Liotta and Ryan Reynolds. These classic smart-alecky good guys further feed the fire of clichés.

The characters are introduced with great fanfare (including their very own bylines), yet the

sheer abundance of them and the fact that many are disposed of quickly leaves the audience as apathetic about their lives as their deaths. Even Liotta and Reynolds do nothing to arouse sympathy from the audience. They come across merely as actors pretending to be shot at. Unfortunately, for Liotta and Reynolds this is not even their fault, as such would ordinarily be the case in this situation.

The blame lies almost entirely with the director. Carnahan's direction, intending to be highly stylized and modern, is sloppy, trite and dull. Rapidly shifting from character to character with no real sense of purpose, the film becomes chaotic, and then eventually gives way to monotony. When the final plot twists do arrive, the only emotion that one feels is that of thankfulness, as at that point one knows that the film will soon be over.

Jeremy Piven, likewise, leaves no lasting impression, though he is the principle character in this pitiful excuse for a story. Devoid of the sort of energy he displays in his role as "one of the most powerful men in Hollywood" in the hit HBO series *Entourage*, in *Smokin' Aces* he really does nothing more than give himself a bleary-eyed stare in the mirror as he slips further into excess and

desperation.

Smokin' Aces subscribes to the "more is better" mantra: more characters, more action, more gore. However, the "mores" that are truly pertinent are conspicuously absent: plot, character development and editing.

What this leaves is a film that could only possibly satisfy the immature and the sadistic with its hackneyed violence. What enabled films like Tarantino's *Kill Bill* and especially his 1994 classic *Pulp Fiction* to be successful was their edginess. With *Smokin' Aces*, what Carnahan fails to realize is that over time the edgy becomes smoothed. The formula for exciting, original films becomes banal. Consequently *Smokin' Aces* was never salvageable and was hopeless from the start.

SMOKIN' ACES

Starring: Jeremy Piven, Alicia Keys, Ryan Reynolds
Director: Joe Carnahan
Run Time: 1 hr 48 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: AMC Towson Commons

Nine Days looking for another hit

The band that hit gold with *Story of a Girl* is returning to the scene with *Slow Motion Life*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B7

had only one major hit was that Nine Days had amazing flexibility in choosing which songs they played. The band played one song from their pre-fame days, when they released three records.

They also dived into *Corporate Jet* and *Unsatisfied*, but didn't neglect *Madding Crowd*, with Hampson singing the keyboard driven, "257 Weeks" and the suggestive "Revolve," where Hampson sings "I wanna crawl inside your womb / I wanna watch the rose on your cheeks bloom."

Hampson and Desveaux usually split the songs they write and sing pretty evenly, with Hampson singing most. Hampson was fighting a flu at the concert, however, and so Desveaux got a few extra licks in. He fronted "Bob Dylan," a tribute to one of their inspirations, and contributed half of the quick-paced "So Far Away."

Hampson's best song was taken from the new record, though, as he showed the range of his raspy voice in "Suddenly (A Brown Eyed Girl)." Desveaux, however, was to own the most awkward moment of the night; while Hampson changed guitars between songs, he simply belted out the first stanza of "Marvelous" (from *So Happily Unsatisfied*), unbeknownst to his band mates.

The tenderest moment was Hampson's: all but he and Desveaux left the stage and he lent his voice to the *Flying The Corporate Jet* ballad "The

Moment."

Nine Days finally got to "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)." When Hampson began the song, the bar went electric, since all listeners recognized the song. Knowing this, Hampson tried to get the crowd involved asking them to sing the chorus and then to even further energize the crowd they broke into "Sweet Home Alabama" in the middle of the song, before returning to "Absolutely."

The band also worked on selling the six-track *Slow Motion Life (Part One)*, with Hampson singing "Girl in California," originally a country song Hampson wrote. It tells the story of a man who leaves the woman he married in New York to find the woman he

loved in Hollywood, but telling his wife if he doesn't find what he wanted he would return. That's not to mention the soft but up-tempo "Worth Fighting For" and the funky "New Shoes."

Nine Days appeared ecstatic to be playing on the road again, and they seemed to miss the days of their number-one hits. They were pleased to be still playing and together (both Hampson and Desveaux released solo records *Seventeen Minutes in the Dark* and *Alive Today*, though the band never broke up).

"It's OK. We're a little older. We're a little fatter. Well, some of us," Hampson said on stage, cocking his head a bit and letting loose a smirk. "I'm kind of a big deal."



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.STARPULSE.COM

John Hampson of the forgotten one-hit wonder band Nine Days is attempting a comeback.

COLLEGE NIGHT AT THE BSO

LIFE: A Journey Through Time
Fri, Feb 23, 8 pm

Marin Alsop leads a BSO debut from Philip Glass: the *LIFE* project, a multimedia piece with images from *National Geographic* photographer Frans Lanting.

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CARTOONS, ETC.




Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Will cyborgs battle aliens in the ultimate battle for Earth? Yes. Will Savion Glover end up defeating them both with his devastating moves? Yes.




Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Par is the average score you can get on a golf course. A dry hump and a handful boobie is the average score you can get at PJ's.




Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Shack up with someone of a different ethnicity as part of Home-wood's "Venereal Diversity Week." Five STDs = free burger!




Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Can a rhinoceros really jump 10 feet in the air? Can a giraffe really kick through a brick wall? Can a puma really take a poop in midair?




Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Draw out what you're trying to say to me, because I can't understand you with all that beef in your mouth. What? No, I don't eat coconut butter.




Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
A lackluster part of your campaign for city council last year was probably that "free colon cleansing" party you threw in your bathroom.




Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Car commercials are always so stupid, you know? Like that one with the dwarf who was too small to drive an SUV, so he killed himself.




Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Toon characters are always so wacky AND informative! Like Andy the Anus. Man, I'll never let a woman touch me there again!




Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
On the day of my daughter's wedding, you come here to ask me for this favor? No mom, I won't eat my vegetables! I'm a "goomba!"



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - Jan. 19)
Your last chance will come this week when God comes to you and offers you the chance to be the most realistic Jesus look-alike ever!



Aquarius: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Face it, buddy, you'll never get away with putting "space chunks" in your girlfriend's drink and screaming, "Mine the moon, bitch!"



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Loser. Yeah, you. I'm wondering how you got to be that FAT, jerk! Oh wait. I'm so sorry. I didn't realize you were even FATTER than I thought.

Trucker Tales By Riley Wiltshire

by William Parschalk

SO OUR BOY DEAN JONES, THE INFAMOUS BANDIT OF '72, HAD JUST MET GARTH DURER-

A DANISH WARLOCK WHO HAD TRAVELED TO MEET THE BOY.

STAY BACK!

HE EASILY CAST A SPELL OVER THE YOUNG JONES.

HE WAS, AFTER ALL, A WARLOCK.

DEAN, I HAVE COME FROM AFAR TO TEACH YOU. YOU WILL LISTEN.

YES... LISTEN...

GARTH SOON TOOK THE BOY UNDER HIS WING, MOLDING HIM INTO HIS PERSONAL WARRIOR TO DO HIS BIDDING.

YOU SEE, GARTH BELIEVED JONES TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF OTTO DARKCLAU, AN EASTERN EUROPEAN WARRIOR FROM THE DARK AGES.

FAMOUS FOR EATING BRAINS.

TOGETHER, JONES AND DURER WOULD BECOME A NEAR UNSTOPPABLE CRIMINAL FORCE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Toad Detective

by Matt Hansen

I WAITED UNTIL THE JAIL MISTRESS WAS GONE THEN BROKE OUT MY SECRET WEAPON.

SOMETIMES IT PAYS TO HAVE A LONG, FLEXIBLE TONGUE... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

HE'S BUSTING LOOSE! GET HIM!

BUCK SHOOT!

Wasted Ink

by Nate Min

Finding a Diamond in the rough

Hopkins' most notable ladies man gives into pressure and submits a Hot at Hopkins profile

It happens every week. People get out of their Thursday classes, grab a copy of the *News-Letter*, frantically turn to the "Hot at Hopkins" section, then scream in agony, shaking their fist at the heavens and crying out, "In the name of all that is sacred, why isn't Matt Diamond in the Hot at Hopkins section? WHY GOD, WHY?"

To these people, I sincerely apologize. You see, people who work for the *News-Letter* aren't allowed to be in the Hot at Hopkins section.

That's the rule. It's an unfortunate rule, of course; it does nothing to dispel the popular notion that journalists are inherently ugly.

For refutation of this, see Plato's influential essay, "Journalists and Philosopher-Kings: Too Sexy For Their Own Good."

In the end, though, it's probably for the best. Without this rule in place, I would be featured in every single edition of "Hot at Hopkins," taking up both the male and female slots, since my incomparable physical beauty transcends gender lines.

There would be no room for anyone else, and all other potentially sexy people would be relegated to the much-maligned "Vaguely Attractive at Hopkins" section.

However, I realize that my absence from "Hot at Hopkins" is placing a noticeable psychological strain on the student body. To remedy this, I have decided to write my own "Hot at Hopkins" feature, an approximation of what it probably would have looked like. So hop on the Love

Train, 'cause the next stop is...

HOT AT HOPKINS:
MATT DIAMOND

Hey ladies, do you like music? This electronic music major will have you "oscillating" like a "resonant filter bank" all night. "I like to do it with chicks," says this handsome hunk. But "making sweet music" isn't all that this double-degree Renaissance Man is good at.

His neuroscience major is useful for livening up dates with "sinister mind-control techniques" and "long rants about the frontal lobe."

Matt Diamond One Fry Short

But don't let his extensive knowledge intimidate you. Matt says he "loves stupid women" and wants you to "shut up and don't answer me."

If there's one thing this bachelor has, it's a sense of style. His ideal date includes a trip to an expensive restaurant, where he will "pour champagne all over my [expletive]" and "make that skank pay the bill."

After dinner, Matt and his date will embark on a romantic retreat to the back seat of his car, where he will "find out if she's useful." He likes to end the night by "maybe giving her a nickel or something" and "asking what her first name is."

Physical appearance is a high priority for this lady-killer. He

likes girls that "aren't busted" and "have sizeable gazoombas, like frickin' missile silos."

But in the end, the person he's most attracted to is himself: "Sometimes I'll spend an entire day just looking at myself naked."

Some women might call him superficial, but Matt doesn't care. "I'm not really interested in what women think about me. Or what they think about anything else, for that matter."

But while Matt keeps an eye on himself, make sure to keep an eye on your wallet. This lusty Lothario has a tendency to "break in through a first-floor window" and "grab money, jewelry and other valuables."

But don't worry about locking up your pots and pans; this smooth operator never learned how to cook. "I need a ho with kitchen skills," he explains. "Else you better love [expletive] Rice-a-Roni."

Don't even think about praying for your life, either; this crafty Casanova hates "religious chicks" and likes to "break commandments like I break condoms." I think we've all been there!

So if you're an attractive young female with a good sense of humor and "no goddamn AIDS," consider giving this Hopkins hottie a ring. "I am looking forward to ignoring you," says this saucy stud.

You, too, can contact this ruggedly handsome, sexy yet playful man. Find out how below:

Matt Diamond wants to love you (but only in the naked way) and can be contacted at mdiamond@jhu.edu.

Rapidly Sinking Sharpie: History!

by Matt Hansen

On this date in 1725, this famous monarch ascended to the throne of a certain frigid and expansive country in northern Europe.

Can you name the ruler, the country, and explain just what exactly a horse is doing in the corner of the picture?

To help, fill in the dots to reveal a picture of the person in question. The question doesn't get any easier, but at least you have something to do while you think.

Answer: CATHERINE THE GREAT, Russia's premier woman ruler. Legend has it she was mortally wounded while engaged in sexual congress with a horse.

Enter The Sudoku

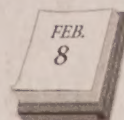
by Matt Hansen

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CALENDAR

CALENDAR FEB. 8-FEB. 14



MICA and Morgan students embrace heritage

Students in Baltimore are embracing their heritage in a truly remarkable way. They are doing it by combining pride in their culture with their passion for art. The project is *At Freedom's Door: Challenging Slavery in America*, and it is an exhibit that opened just this week at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and the Maryland Historical Society.

Though it only recently opened up to the public, the exhibition is a project that has been a major part of the lives of more than 35 students for the past two years. These students are from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and Morgan State University, and they started their journey two years ago when they became involved in MICA's Exhibition Development Seminar, founded in 1997 by MICA's Curator-in-Residence George Ciscle. Though this is a MICA program, Morgan students were able to participate in this endeavor through the Baltimore Student Exchange Program, which allows students attending Baltimore Collegetown schools to cross-register at other institutions.

At Freedom's Door is one of nine exhibitions to come out of this program in its ten-year history. Past projects include *Situated Realities: Where Technology and Imagination Intersect*, and *Everlasting: A Multi-media Sound + Video Installation* by Ann Fessler. The goal of the program is to allow undergraduate, graduate and continuing-studies students the opportunity to work collaboratively with professional curators, artists and historians who help guide their efforts. Local people who work in the field help teach students about researching, planning and developing an exhibit focused on a specific topic. Not only does the course provide students with valuable real-world experience, it also allows them to pursue in-depth a topic about which they are passionate.



Students at MICA and Morgan have been working together for several semesters to bring their newest exhibit to life. COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MICA.EDU](http://www.mica.edu)

The idea behind this latest exhibit is to look closely at Maryland's relationship with slavery by examining the resistance to slavery by both slaves and free people and documenting the state's involvement in the institution. Through the use of artifacts, personal accounts and contemporary art, both historical and more current points of view are explored. Many renowned artists from MICA and

elsewhere were called to bestow their talents upon this important production. Artists include MICA Artists-in-Residence Joan M.E. Gaither and Arvie Smith as well as commissioned artists including William Christenberry, Linda Day Clark, Sam Christian Holmes and Joyce J. Scott.

Students are responsible for executing all aspects of *At Freedom's Door*, from lighting

design to publications to community outreach. After working diligently in teams, the students presented their final proposals to their professional mentors. The exhibition can now be seen at the Maryland Historical Society and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture.

— Alex Vockroth

Yo La Tengo hits Sonar with newest release

Indie rock band Yo La Tengo are coming to Baltimore this weekend to rock Sonar! The band, which originally came together back in the '80s, will be joined by the Rosebuds Friday night.

Baltimore is the second-to-last stop on the trio's American tour. They will then move on to Philadelphia before taking their show overseas.

The tour comes in support of Yo La Tengo's latest release, *I Am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass* (2006). This is their first album in three years. It has been hailed as more professional and disciplined than previous releases. In particular, "gloriously unkempt guitar solos" and "their distinct personality" have been credited as key improvements in this album's sound.

Yo La Tengo has increased their fan base considerably in the past few years, but they've actually been rocking together for a prolific two decades, over which the Hoboken, N.J., natives have

released 13 albums.

Everything about Yo La Tengo is unique, even their membership. Members Ira Kaplan and Georgia Hubley are married. James McNew rounds out the trio. Their music is known for being distinctive and atypical. Their eclectic sound has been compared to the Velvet Underground and Bob Dylan.

Their indie vibes should be well complemented by the Rosebuds. Based out of North Carolina, this group is preparing to drop their third album in April, *Night of the Furies*. The tracks were composed by Ivan Howard and Kelly Crisp, and this release follows 2003's melodious and dancey *The Rosebuds Make Out* and 2005's *Birds Make Good Neighbors*.

Friday's show starts at 7 p.m. at Sonar, located at 407 E. Saratoga St. The show is open to all ages. Tickets cost \$17.

— Alex Vockroth



Famed indie rockers Yo La Tengo will be performing at Sonar this Friday night. Don't miss what always turns out to be an awesome show! COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MATARODRECORDS.COM](http://www.matarodrecords.com)

Concerts and Clubs

Thursday, February 8

7 p.m. Playing at Fletcher's Bar are Wasted City, Stupid and Remasium. For more information go to <http://www.fletchersbar.com>.

8 p.m. Come celebrate Mardi Gras with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. They'll be playing favorites with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and vocalist Banu Gibson. For more information go to <http://www.baltimoresymphony.org>.

8 p.m. Pianist Benjamin Kim will be performing at An Die Musik Live. Tickets are \$15

perform at the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Friday, February 9

7 p.m. Charm City Art Space presents Sick Fix, Tarpit MD, Deceiver and Kamikaze Noise, among several other bands. For more information go to <http://www.ccspace.org>.

8 p.m. Recher Theatre will be hosting the Mobtown Skankfest featuring The Players, Unity Reggae Band and the Rootworkers. For more information go to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

go to <http://www.sonar.us>.

8 p.m. Mr. Greengenes will be playing at Recher Theatre. For more information go to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

8 p.m. Feel in the mood for a crazy Pink Floyd experience? Look no further than Ram's Head. The Machine will be performing Pink Floyd synchronized with a projection of *The Wizard of Oz*. For more information go to <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

8:30 p.m. The Red Room presents a night of voice and percussion. Mathias Kaul, an amazing tenor, and Thomas Buckner, a percus-

potentials. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Sunday, February 11

6 p.m. In Dying Arms will be performing at Fletcher's with Deerco Road, For the Taking and Enemony. For more information go to <http://www.fletchersbar.com>.

7 p.m. Pianist Joo-Young Moon will be performing pieces by Bach, Mozart, Chopin and Sofia Gubaidulina at An Die Musik Live. Tickets are \$8 for students with ID. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

7:30 p.m. The Teeth of Hydra, Chapter of Decay and Tarpit tear up the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Monday, February 12

7 p.m. Ready for a night of punk? Ghost Mice, Dead Mechanical and Counterfeit Matt will be performing at Charm City Art Space. For more information go to <http://www.ccspace.org>.

8 p.m. Phoenix Mourning performs at the Ottobar with This Moment, Of Hearts, and Shadows. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Tuesday, February 13

8 p.m. Boyfriends and Girlfriends mix it up at the Sidebar Tavern. They'll be performing with Evil Army, Hollywood, and Dactyl. For more information go to <http://www.sidebartavern.com>.

9 p.m. In anticipation of Valentine's Day, the Ottobar is having a Valentine's Blowout featuring Helen & Angie Potani, as well as the Fisherman Xylophonic Orchestra. For more information go

to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Wednesday, February 14

8 p.m. Under the Influence of Giants will be performing at the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Thursday, February 15

6:30 p.m. God Forbid takes off at the Ottobar with Mnenic, Arsis and Byzantine. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

7 p.m. Musiq Soulchild, a musician known for combining soul,

funk and hip hop, will be performing at Ram's Head. For more information go to <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

7:30 p.m. Rascal Flatts will be performing at the First Mariner Arena. For more information go to <http://www.baltimorearena.com>.

8 p.m. ABIKU performs at the Sidebar Tavern with Retarded Garfield, Tear of the Brown Eye and The Torrents. For more information go to <http://www.sidebartavern.com>.

— Compiled by Alena Geffner



Pink Floyd cover band The Machine will put on a bigger-than-life show at the Ram's Head this Saturday night. COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.THEMACHINELIVE.COM](http://www.themachinelive.com)

for students with ID. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

9 p.m. Mantooth, Me Vs. The Monster and Putrefaction

Saturday, February 10

7 p.m. Anamide will be playing with A Freudian Slip and Quarry at Sonar. For more information

sionist, will be performing together. For more information go to <http://www.redroom.org>.

9 p.m. Shaking it up at the Ottobar are The Mishaps, The Lexington Arrows and The Ex-



The Rascal Flatts will be at First Mariner Arena to support Me and My Gang. COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.REVUEMAG.NET](http://www.revuemag.net)

CALENDAR

Campus Events

Thursday, February 8

11 a.m. A Volunteer Fair will take place in the Mattin SDS room. The fair is part of B'More Aware, a three-day event that focuses on community service. At the fair, there will be a variety of different volunteer groups from the campus as well as the community. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/csc>.

6 p.m. A SAC General Meeting will take place in Mattin Center room 161. For more information e-mail sacexec@jhu.edu.

9 p.m. The Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club will be holding a GA in Shaffer 101. Come to find out more information on their upcoming adventures and schedule. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/outdoors>.

Friday, February 9

11 p.m. Show You Care, the second of three B'More Aware events, will be held in the Glass Pavilion. People are encouraged to stop by until 2 p.m. to help make care packages. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/csc>.

2 p.m. Cooking 4 Love cooks and serves hot meals for a homeless shelter in downtown Baltimore. They welcome anyone who is interested to come to the Interfaith Center. For more information e-mail sherian@jhu.edu.

5 p.m. The National Aquarium in Baltimore offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. The discounted admission is a great deal, so don't pass it up! Even if you have been down to the Aquarium before, head down to check out the dolphin show. For more information, including hours of operation, group discounts and directions, call (410) 566-3845.

8 p.m. The Maryland Space Grant Observatory located in Bloomberg offers you a free chance to look at the solar system with its telescopes, weather permitting. Call (410) 516-6525 for weather updates and observing conditions before you hike up to Bloomberg.

8 p.m. As part of Black History Month, BSU is sponsoring a Poetry Slam at Nolan's. For more information go to <http://www.my.calendars.net/bsu2007>.

8 p.m. The Barnstormers present their intercession play, *The*

Murder at Arellano this weekend

It's three nights of mystery, murder and snow this weekend as Hopkins' largest theater group, the Barnstormers, presents the world-famous "Whodunnit" *The Mousetrap*.

The Barnstormers are not just the biggest campus theater troupe but also the oldest. Originally chartered in 1919, they have always been entirely organized and run by students to produce a wide variety of plays. This latest production was written by prolific fiction writer Agatha Christie. *The Mousetrap* holds the world record for being the longest-running play in history. It opened in 1952 in London and is still on stage there today!

The story concerns Mollie and Giles Ralston, played by sophomore Aparna Desai and senior Chris Hamel, respectively. The Ralstons are a young couple who own a hotel and, on one unfortunate eve, find themselves snowed in with five guests. A police detective soon arrives to warn them that a killer is on the loose in the area. But in the tradition of Christie mysteries, all soon discover that they are trapped with the murderer already. Too many more details would give away the mystery and the story's twists and turns, but the rest of the plot follows these eight people as they attempt to ferret out the murderer while keeping themselves alive.

The Mousetrap is the Barnstormers' intercession show, the third of four student-directed plays they will put on this academic year. Putting in long hours as producers are Emma Hollister and Bill Fuller, both sophomores.



COURTESY OF: [HTTP://WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG](http://www.wikipedia.org)

The Mousetrap will move from London to the Arellano stage this weekend.

The impressively dedicated cast is sure to perpetuate Hopkins theater's good name by putting on a quality performance. Besides Desai and Hamel, the play stars junior Rob Kasten, sophomores Ersin Akinci, Holly Caracappa, Esther Bell and Mike Wills, and freshman Alex Neville.

The play's director is Sofija Korac, a senior who has a substantial history of involvement with Hopkins theater. Not only can Sofija boast experience as a stage manager, but she has also directed six shows for Witness Theater. This is her first time directing a show with the Barnstormers. When asked about the experience, she remarked, "I was nervous about directing my first

full-length show, but it has been such a great experience and I've had such a fabulous cast that has made it even better than I imagined!" Sofija also acknowledged "the awesome tech crew and producers" as integral to putting together a quality show.

Don't be afraid to brave the cold this weekend to come out and see this terrifically suspenseful show! Performances of *The Mousetrap* will take place at the Arellano Theatre, under the Glass Pavilion, on Feb. 9, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students (with J-card) and \$5 for everyone else.

—Alex Vockroth

Mousetrap, by Agatha Christie. For more information go to <http://www.jhubarnstormers.org>.

10 p.m. Coffee Grounds takes place every Friday night in Nolan's in Charles Commons. Come out for the free doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun evening activity.

Saturday, February 10

10 a.m. B'More Aware will be distributing care packages to the homeless. People interested should come to the Great Hall. Breakfast will be provided. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/csc>.

6 p.m. Don't miss the Gospel

Choir Concert in Shriver Auditorium. The group will be performing as part of Black History Month. For more information e-mail gospel@jhu.edu.

8 p.m. Love the '80s? HOP is throwing an '80s dance party in the Glass Pavilion. Get ready to dance the night away to amazing '80s music!

8 p.m. The Barnstormers present their intercession play, *The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie. The play tells the story of a young couple running a hotel where a murder takes place. It's up to a detective and the guests to figure out who's responsible. This play is the longest-running play in history. For more information go to <http://www.jhubarnstormers.org>.

[barnstormers.org](http://www.barnstormers.org).

Sunday, February 11

8 p.m. The Barnstormers present their intercession play *The Mousetrap*, written by Agatha Christie.

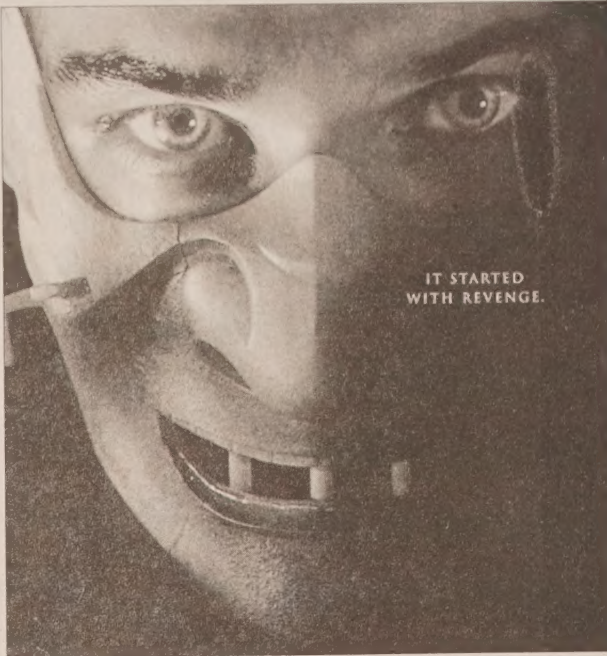
Monday, February 12

MOVIE OPENING

Hannibal Rising

Movie opening at AMC Theatres Towson Commons 8 this Friday

Showtimes: 1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 10 p.m.



COURTESY OF: [HTTP://WWW.ROTTENTOMATOES.COM](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)

Hannibal Rising is the exciting prequel to *Silence of the Lambs* and *Red Dragon*. Based on Thomas Harris' new book of the same name, it tells the story of young Hannibal (Gaspard Ulliel) growing up in Europe.

4 p.m. As part of Black History Month, the Black Student Union will be sponsoring a lecture series. The first one will feature Craig Thompson, a motivational speaker. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/bsu>.

Q-Level in MSE. Come to the library for a free five-minute massage guaranteed to reduce early-semester stress. For more information go to <http://www.jhu.edu/~health/stressbusters.html>.

—compiled by Alena Geffner

Wednesday, February 14

10 a.m. Want to make a difference? Come give blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive in the Glass Pavilion. Open throughout the day, people are encouraged to come out and donate blood.

7 p.m. "Wind Down Wednesdays," sponsored by Stressbusters, will take place on

Got an Event?

Send details about future events including date, time, location and a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events the Monday before publication.

BARGAIN EVENTS



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ROTTENTOMTOES.COM](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)

Come see *The Departed*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, this Friday as part of the HOP's Friday Night Films series.

Free

The HOP Presents:
The Departed

This Friday night, head over to the Mudd Hall auditorium for a free screening of the Academy Award-nominated film *The Departed*. The show starts at 8 p.m. After, head to Nolan's in Charles Commons to warm up with free coffee and refreshments at Coffee Grounds. All this is brought to you by the Hopkins Organization for Programming.

\$5 to \$10

Cartoons That Swing

This hoppin' new film series highlights the link between art and music. It features animated shorts set to music of some of the jazz greats: Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Herbie Hancock, Ella Fitzgerald and more. Come celebrate the spirit of classic animation and jazz. This event will be at An die Musik Live on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. Admission is only \$8! For more information call (410) 385-2638.

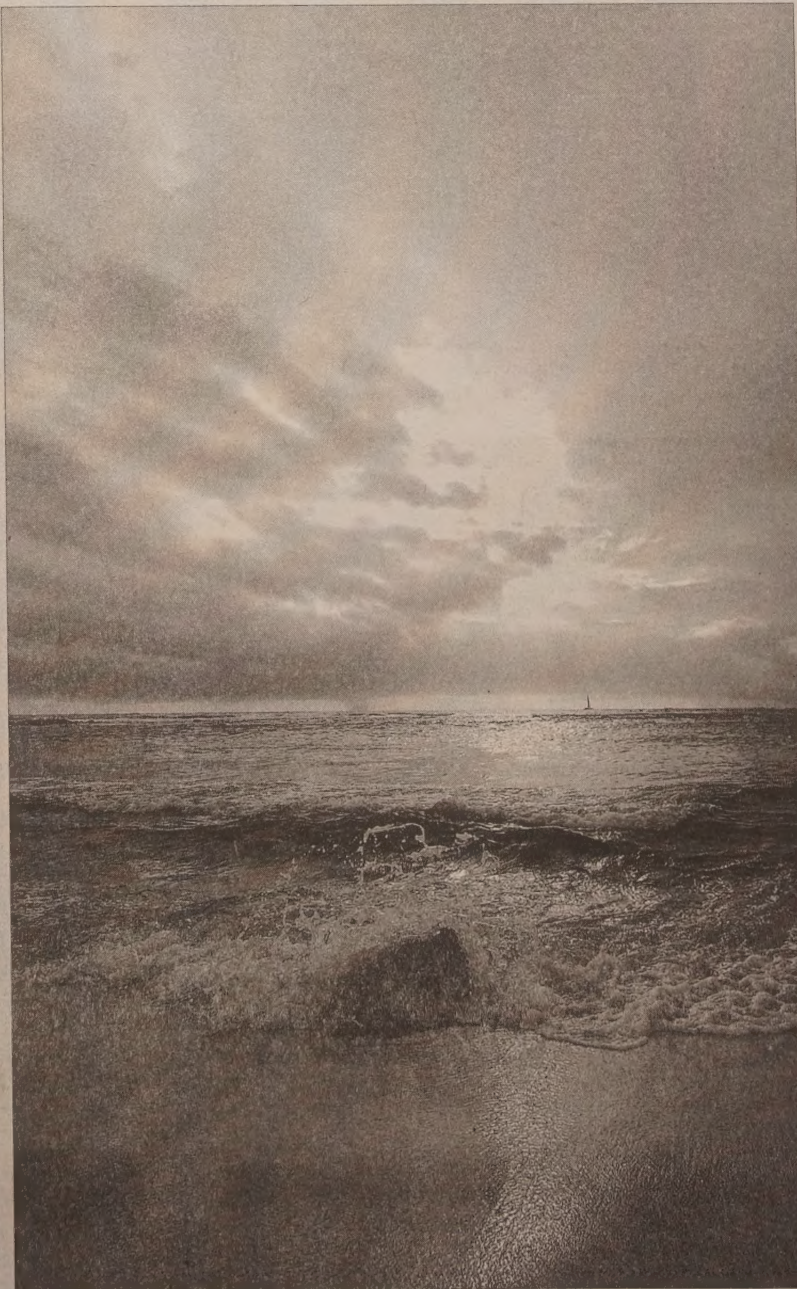
\$10 to \$25+

Baltimore Winter
Restaurant Week

Sample the varied and savory flavors of Baltimore during Winter Restaurant Week which wraps up this weekend. Enjoy countless crab creations with food from local places including The Rusty Scupper, The Brass Elephant, Tio Pepe, Taste and more. Go to any participating restaurant this Thursday or Friday and enjoy a three-course lunch for about \$20 or dinner for about \$30. The full list of restaurants is available at <http://www.citypeek.com>.

Exposure

By Conor Kevit





yourspace.jhu.edu
a place for friends

Upperclass Room Selection

On-Line Registration Starts @ Noon This Friday!

visit: yourspace.jhu.edu

Deadline: February 19th @11:59pm

Want to check out the space before you sign your lease?

Apartment and Residence Hall Tours

Friday, February 22nd from 5:00pm-7:00pm

Meet in the Wolman Lobby

Thursday, February 8th

Upperclass Information Session

5:00 pm - Charles Commons Banquet Room

Section B & C

(Located in the Conference Services area)

Friday, February 9th @ 12 noon -

Monday, February 19th

Upperclass Room Selection

On-Line Registration

Visit: yourspace.jhu.edu

Deadline: February 19th @ 11:59pm

Thursday, February 22nd

Residence Halls and Apartment Tours

Bradford/Homewood/Charles Commons

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Meet in the Wolman Lobby

Friday, February 23rd

Upperclass Priority Number Notification

Sent out by 5:00pm

Tuesday, February 27th

Upperclass Contract Signing Session

AMR Multipurpose Room at 6:00pm

Each group will be assigned a
specific time to attend

